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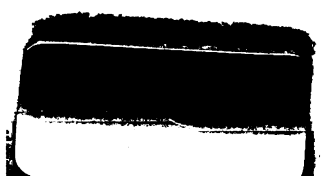

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TRAVELS

THROUGH

SPAIN

AND PART OF

PORTUGAL,

WITH

COMMERCIAL, STATISTICAL, AND GEOGRAPHICAL DETAILS.

.....

"Half a word fixed upon or near the spot, is worth a cart-load of recollection."—GRAY'S LETTERS.

.....

FIRST AMERICAN EDITION.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following pages claim the merit of extreme accuracy. They were written upon the spot, when the impressions they describe were strong and precise.

The objects which they embrace are such as naturally present themselves to a person who travels through a country for amusement; and as every one has his particular taste for observation, they will not be found without novelty or interest, especially as it is some time since any authentic account has appeared of the interesting part of Europe which is the subject of them. Exclusively of such topics as usually attract the fleeting notice of the traveller, they will be found to contain Commercial, Statistical, and Geographical Details, which the writer has collected with industry, and he hopes will be read with interest.

PREFACE.

SPAIN is one of the countries of Europe with which we are most imperfectly acquainted, and yet its monuments are most various, and its history the most interesting of any.

Rich in all the productions of nature, it is further embellished by the ingenuity of many ages and the genius of various nations. The majesty of the Roman temples there forms a singular contrast with the delicacy of the Arabic monuments, and the Gothic architecture with the simple beauty of modern edifices.

The clouds which cover the primitive history of Spain do not begin to be dissipated, till the period when the Phœnicians arrived, and formed establishments in the country, before uncivilized and unknown. It is supposed that they landed in the island of St. Peter, where they constructed the temple of Hercules, the remains of which are still to be seen when the sea ebbs more than usual. Soon afterwards the town of Gades or Gadir was erected; Calpe and Abyla became renowned for the two columns denominated the Pillars of Hercules, on which the Phœnicians engraved the inscription, *Non plus ultra.*

The Greeks, the pupils of the Phœnicians in the art of navigation, did not fail to share with them the advantages of this discovery. They established an extensive commerce in Spain, and founded several cities, among the rest Ampurias and the unfortunate Saguntum: but the Carthaginians, possess-

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ing still greater skill and power, soon made themselves masters of the whole peninsula; and such they would have remained, had not the Romans, who alone were able to dispute with them this brilliant conquest, at length succeeded in their efforts to wrest it from them.

In the hope of escaping from servitude, the Spaniards sometimes endeavoured to defend themselves; but more frequently deceived by the phantom of a generous alliance, they faithfully promoted the views of their different oppressors. Thus three cities chose rather to perish than to surrender; Saguntum, from attachment to the Romans; Astapa in Bœtica, to the Carthaginians, and Numantia for the sake of liberty.*

Exhausted by all these calamities, Spain at length began to breathe, and by degrees to recruit her strength under the peaceable dominion of the Romans. Induced by the fertility of her soil, and the richness and variety of her productions, that people founded numerous colonies in Spain; military roads were opened in every quarter; aqueducts conveyed to the cities the tribute of the waters; triumphal arches reminded the conquerors of their glory; theatres and circuses effaced from the minds of the vanquished the memory of their misfortunes.

Saguntum saw its walls reared once more; Merida, Tarragona, Cordova, Salamanca, Segovia, and other towns, admired the splendor of their new edifices, the glorious testimonies of the predilection of Rome for this country, the rival of Italy.

This happy administration did not last long. Rome, when mistress of the world, soon became as

* In our own days Barcelona suffered a similar fate, rather than surrender to the Duke of Berwick; and on that occosion, the leader of the citizens was a person of no higher rank than a shoemaker.

odious as Carthage. Spain had its Clodius and its Verres; and the most beautiful province of the empire of the Cæsars was also the most wretched.

The Asturians and Cantabrians alone preserved their independence, amid their mountains. Augustus undertook their subjugation; they defended themselves, and most of them perished sword in hand. The poets of Rome celebrated this cruel victory, but posterity admires only its victims.

Spain was subject to the Romans till toward the conclusion of the fourth century. The northern nations, after having ravaged the other countries of Europe, penetrated into Spain during the reign of Honorius: the Suevi made themselves masters of Galicia and part of Portugal; the Alani and Vandals of Bœtica. The Goths, following at the heels of these ferocious conquerors, compelled the Alani and Vandals to retire to Africa; the Suevi made a longer resistance, but being at length conquered by Leovigildus, they ceased to be a distinct people, and all Spain received law from the Goths.

This invasion of barbarous nations gave a mortal blow to the fine arts in a country covered with their master-pieces: yet what numismatic riches, how many monuments have escaped the devastation!

The Goths did not discover in these ruins the model of a pure taste and regular beauty. They would have surpassed the Romans, had they striven to imitate them, but they took a different route. Hence those singular edifices which enriched architecture with a new order; a composite, strange, motley order, minute in the details, and sometimes confused in the whole, but religious, majestic, and whose long duration justifies its astonishing boldness.

The Goths, tranquil possessors of Spain, and enlightened by the gospel, begun to be civilized; but the climate, which softened their character, repose, which enervated their courage, prepared an easy victory for new conquerors.

The cruelty of King Vitiza, and the weakness of Rodrigo, accelerated the fatal moment, and Spain fell a prey to enemies till then unknown.

The Arabs, an ancient, wandering people, inhabiting deserts, joining the Moors, so called from their native country, Mauritania, made an irruption into the south of Spain, as the Goths had previously done in the north. The fate of Spain was decided in the unfortunate battle of Xeres de la Frontera, where Rodrigo lost his throne and his life.

The conquerors, finding no other obstacles, took possession of all Spain, except those same Pyrenees which had so long preserved their ancient inhabitants from the Roman yoke. These mountains, and their caverns, afforded a refuge to such of the Spanish Goths as, collected by Pelagius, a prince of the blood-royal of that nation, were able to avoid the yoke of the Mussulmans.

This second invasion, which might naturally be supposed to have left the native Spaniards no trace of their laws, their customs, and national qualities, produced a contrary effect: so amply have the blessings bestowed on this happy country seemed always to compensate the inhabitants for the severity of fortune.

The Moors were not long before they felt that influence which had softened the manners of the Goths, and taught them to relish the charms of a tranquil life. No sooner were the new conquerors happy, than they ceased to be barbarous. The principle of civilization was developed among them with extraordinary rapidity; the love of letters ennobled their ideas, and purified their taste, without diminishing their courage. At Seville, at Grenada, at Cordova, schools and public libraries were opened; and while christian Europe was covered with the clouds of ignorance, the genius of Averroes,

multitude of learned men, enlightened the civilized Mussulmans.

Not content with patronizing the sciences, the moorish kings themselves cultivated them. How brilliant were the reigns of the Abdarhamans and the Mahomets! Those princes united the private virtues with military qualities; they were poets, historians, mathematicians, philosophers, and great captains; and many of them deserved a still more honourable appellation, that of the best of kings.

At this new epoch of the history of Spain, a new taste was introduced into the arts, and gave a direction to architecture in particular. The ancient structures of the Goths did not harmonize with the customs and the religion of the Moors. The latter, indifferent to external decorations, reserved all their ingenuity for the interior of their edifices. There they lavished whatever was calculated to delight the senses, and to accord with a sedentary and voluptuous life. Hence the singular magnificence of their palaces and their mosques, that richness in their ornaments, that finish in the smallest details, which far surpass the beauty of the whole.

The arts were thus developing themselves among the Moors, when a spark concealed in the Asturias, produced a new conflagration, which extended to all Spain.

Pelagius having fled to the mountains, not only defended himself there with courage, but, under the banners of the cross, ventured to conduct his troops into the countries contiguous to his retreat. This illustrious man, concerning whom we have, unfortunately but few particulars, had collected all the nobles of the Asturias and the rest of Spain. This force, which long proved invincible, was the instrument of the conquests of different chiefs, the ablest of whom made themselves sovereigns. By them were founded the kingdoms of Castile, Leon, Ar-

ragon, and Navarre, successively conquered from the Moors.

This war, which continued several centuries, has alternately the air of history and of romance, and appears worthy both of the narrative of a Livy and the fables of an Ariosto. It consists of battles, sieges, assaults, and still more frequently of tournaments, banquets, and challenges, given and accepted with equal audacity.

In these celebrated lists triumphed the heroes whose exploits are recorded in the Spanish romances, and of these Rodrigo de Bivar, surnamed the Cid, particularly distinguished himself. Equal in virtue, and superior in power, to Bayard, he was, like him, the object of the veneration, not only of his brethren in arms, but also of the enemies of his country.

Reduced to the single kingdom of Grenada, the Moors there maintained themselves for several centuries; but, at length, expelled from their last asylum, they were obliged to withdraw to Africa, where they soon resumed their primitive manners.

This important event was reserved to crown the felicity of Ferdinand and Isabella, and the arms of Gonsalvo de Cordova, seconded by other chiefs of equal celebrity.

Sovereigns of Spain and of the New World, Ferdinand and Isabella, after having attained the pinnacle of prosperity, had the misfortune to leave their immense possessions to a foreign dynasty. They formed the dowry of their daughter Joan, wife of Philip the Fair, Archduke of Austria, and mother of Charles V.

Fortune by her extraordinary favours, and Cardinal Ximenes, by a wise administration, threw a lustre upon the reign of Charles V. at one and the same time Emperor of Germany and King of Spain.

The talents and genius of this prince seemed to have destined him for universal monarchy; and, to his own misfortune and that of the world, he aspired to it. Palled, however, with the pomp and pageantries of grandeur, he chose to end his days in retirement, and resigned the crown to his son, Philip. It is to the reign of these two princes that the revival of the arts in Spain may be ascribed.

Architecture boasts of the master-pieces of Toledo by Herrera; painting, of the productions of Ribera, Morales, and latterly, of Velasquez, Murillo, Cano, &c. The art of engraving was improved, and the Castilian tongue, embellished by superior writers of every class, became the universal language of Spain.*

The arts declined for some time, under the feeble dominion of the last Austrian princes, but they revived as soon as the victory of Almanza had established the claim of Philip V. to the Spanish crown.

That prince, with the monuments erected by Louis XIV. fresh in his memory, was desirous of reproducing the master-pieces with which he was familiar in his youth. He peopled, if we may so express ourselves, the environs of Madrid with the recollections of Versailles, the beauties of which yet lived in his imagination.

The new palace of Madrid, superior, perhaps, in richness and beauty, to every other in Europe, and the gardens of St. Ildefonso and Aranjuez, attest the taste and the magnificence of Philip V. His successors imitated this noble example, and the Academy of Arts, founded by Ferdinand VI. was not the only institution for which he deserved the gratitude of the Spaniards. But how much more

* The Editor is indebted for the leading ideas of this Preface to the magnificent work entitled *Voyage Pittoresque de l'Espagne*, just published.

were they indebted to his son and successor, Charles III., the benefactor of two kingdoms, after having built Caserta, and laid open the subterranean treasures of Herculaneum and Pompeii in the one, formed in the other establishments, whose number and utility excite admiration. He acquired in both the title of a great and wise king, which, at his death, he bequeathed to his son, as the fairest portion of his inheritance.

Such is the sketch of the principal events which subjected Spain to various rulers. Revolutions, wars, and time itself, have not been able entirely to destroy the monuments which adorn that beautiful country, and the arts of the four different nations by whom it has been successively embellished.

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TRAVELS

THROUGH

SPAIN, &c.

CHAP. I.

Arrival at Barcelona.—The Port.—Cathedral.—Custom House.—Theatre.—Expenses of a journey to Valentia.—The king's visit to Barcelona in 1802.—Villas.—Academy of Arts.—Monjoich cannon foundry.—Palace of Commerce.

ON the 22d of May 1803, we arrived in the road of Barcelona, after a passage of five days from Genoa.

May 23. As we proceeded to the stairs in the harbour, the first view of the city particularly struck us by its neatness, and the novelty of the houses contiguous to the port, the greater part of which are new. A large building, the Tribunal of Commerce, stands in front; and the whole scene is exceedingly pleasing, though it exhibits little or nothing of magnificence. The great quay, however, is a noble work, by far the grandest I

have seen any where: it was crowded with people, whose cleanliness, bustle, and costume surprised and delighted us. The appearance here is really more striking than I can describe; every body is in motion, and industry busy in every street.

Having secured apartments at *los coatro nationes*, a new inn, we began our walk through the town. The cathedral is a small but venerable Gothic building. The cloister planted with orange trees, and surrounded by chapels, many of which have old armour, swords, and shields, suspended over their altars, is a fit introduction to such an edifice. But the church itself with its spiral stalls, "chaunted mass," gloomy aisles, and "dim religious light" struggling through a few rich windows, and resting at last upon the gilt traces of a high-wrought Gothic altar, carried me more forcibly than any thing I can remember into the darkest ages of monkish devotion. The Catholic ceremonies are fine only in their edifices; the effect of this altar to me, who had just landed from the tawdry "*crimped Grecian*"* spectacles of Italy, the idea of its having remained in the same state for ages, and that it has never been profaned by French vio-

* A very happy expression of Swinburne in his Sicilian Tour, to express the broken pediments, mangled entablatures, and rusticated pilasters, of the Italian churches. Borromini may be considered as the most successful master in the art of *crimping*.

lence, struck me with a mingled sensation of reverence and satisfaction. Hence we proceeded into the world again; and at the custom-house, a solid, handsome, though not architecturally beautiful building, were present at the examination of our trunks, which was performed with great civility by an officer who was well acquainted with the English, French, and Italian languages. He inspected all my books, one of which was the common prayer; he read the title page aloud and returned it to me. The bustle of business in the custom-house is very great; and the strictness with which the baggage of travellers is generally examined, has been much complained of. In the evening we visited the theatre: as it begins as early as five o'clock, the Spanish comedy was over when we arrived; but we were in time for the ballet. The theatre is not very large: it is tolerably well constructed; but though neat in the extreme, is miserably deficient in decorations. It has three tiers of boxes and a gallery; a plain white curtain, festooned on a yellow ground; the stage boxes have pilasters adorned with brown arabesks; in the centre of the house is suspended a mean lamp; but the general effect, from its extreme neatness and cleanliness is not unpleasing. The exterior bears the date of 1776. We were best entertained with the ballet Matilda di Orsino, a bustling Spanish-

story. The scenery was new, well managed, and appropriate; the palace-view was better executed than any scene I have witnessed since I left Paris; the landscapes but indifferently. The dancers are all Italians; but the whole was conducted without extravagance or absurdity, after the French taste. We had only the *gusto Italiano* for five minues at the end, when three twirling buffoons with white breeches made their appearance. The good taste which prevails in this department is owing to the first female dancer, La Perron, who received her education at Paris; she has considerable merit, and the actors are respectable. The orchestra is rather scanty. The house was by no means full; the company in the boxes were neatly dressed, and the audience in general quiet and well behaved: the whole performance was finished at eight o'clock.

May 25. We began to think of preparing for our journey to Valentia; and for this purpose called upon M——, to whom we had letters of introduction, to ask his advice. He received us with the greatest kindness; and sent for the master of the mules to his house, that we might arrange fairly with him in his presence. We were astonished to find that it would cost us for the five mules requisite to carry us to Valentia by Montserrat (where we proposed stopping a day,) eighty-five dollars. The mule master in-

formed us that we should be nine days on the road to Valentia, including the day to be spent on the mountain; and that we must pay him eight days for his return. The plan was not altogether comfortable, and we considered the charge too exorbitant to be complied with.

The king's visit to Barcelona last year (1802) when the double marriage took place, is still the subject of conversation. The grandest scene on this occasion was, the three nights' procession representing the blessings of peace, and the ancient triumphs of Spanish history, particularly the eastern expeditions of the Catalans and Arragonese in the fourteenth century. The dresses are said to have been very splendid; but judging by the prints which are now sold, not much taste was displayed in the machines and decorations made use of in this festival. To discharge the expense, the town was laid under a contribution; an English merchant told us that his share amounted to seventy pounds. The king was a month on his road from Madrid, through Sarragosa, and his retinue was like an army: upwards of eighty thousand persons, exclusive of the inhabitants of the city, were collected; and the Catalans felt a generous pride in observing that no accident or quarrel occurred, and no life was lost, notwithstanding the enmity subsisting between them and the Spaniards. This enmity is

carried to such a height, that when it was proposed to strike a medal in honour of the king's visit, the academy of arts of St. Fernando, at Madrid, were requested to superintend the execution; but this body actuated by a most illiberal and unworthy spirit, endeavoured to excuse themselves, and made every possible delay; which so enraged the Catalans, that they withdrew the business from their hands, and entrusted it to their own academy. The medal was produced in a month, and remains a record rather of their loyal zeal, than of their ability in the fine arts. The Prince of the Peace appeared here in greater state than the king himself; he was lodged in the palace of commerce, and had a guard of honour daily mounted before his door.

We were surprised to find the bishop's palace not more considerable than most of the better sort of houses in the town. The present prelate is much esteemed, and we heard from the English residents here a very favourable character of the Spanish hierarchy. We observed among the middle and lower orders of people that attention to religion which we expected. The booksellers' shops have an enormous proportion of theological literature: hardly any door is without a print of the Virgin or some saint; and it is a common custom here to bow to a church in passing, when the bell is tolling.

About half-past one we walked to the *maison de plaisance* of Mr. ——, who had invited us to dinner: it was about two miles from the city. The whole surrounding country was sprinkled over with little boxes, generally consisting of a kitchen below, and above stairs a dining room, a bed room or two, and an open arcade; principally places for retirement and relaxation, but hardly any of them large enough for receiving a family. In our way to Mr. ——'s, we passed an ugly painted house, with four towers ending in short spires, built by a viceroy of Peru, who sent the plan over from that country; and it is said to be a specimen of the Peruvian style of architecture: nothing can be more frightful, and it appears very small for an officer holding so high and lucrative a post. It stands close to the road, and is merely surrounded by a little garden.

After dinner we returned to Barcelona, which from the country has a pretty appearance, by a road bounded on each side by a hedge of lofty aloes. We were in time for the ballet, and the second act of the opera; which is performed twice a week by a company of Italians, at the theatre already described, which is indeed the only one in the city: it was executed in a very creditable style, and the first female has considerable vocal powers. The house was extremely crowded. We visited the academy of arts, insti-

tuted in the palace of commerce, and supported in the most magnificent manner by the merchants of Barcelona. We were conducted through a long suite of apartments, in which seven hundred boys were employed in copying and designing: some of them, who display superior talents, are sent to Rome, and to the academy of St. Fernando at Madrid; the others are employed in different ways by the merchants and manufacturers. The rooms are large and commodious; and are furnished with casts of celebrated statues, and every proper apparatus. We observed a few drawings of considerable merit, produced by the scholars: but the grand picture before us of liberality and industry, amply rewarded our visit; and was the more striking to us, from having of late been continually accustomed to lament the traces of neglect and decay, so visibly impressed on every similar institution in the impoverished cities of Italy.

May 26. The fortress of Monjoich, which lies to the south of the city, is remarkably strong, particularly on the side towards Valentia; but it is believed that the principal object of the government in building it, was to keep the free spirit of the Catalans in subjection, by commanding the chief town of the principality: it would require three thousand men to defend it against an enemy. The view of the city from the walls of the

fortress is very complete. I cannot by any means allow that it contains a hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants; two-thirds of that number accords better with its general appearance, and even then perhaps the amount would be over-rated. There is nothing of magnificence in this prospect; any one who can imagine a pretty white town with a few ugly steeples rising out of it, backed by a range of hills which are sprinkled over with little pleasure-houses, will have an accurate idea of the general view of Barcelona. The prospect from Monjoich towards the south, is a fine plain, rich beyond description, through which the Llobregat flows into the sea, which it discolours to a great distance. This plain is terminated by hills; and through an opening of these Montserrat is plainly discovered. The west side of the fortress is bounded by the sea, which washes the foot of the precipice on which it stands. In descending Monjoich, while we were meditating on its name, we observed a stone by the road-side, which had the remains of an Hebrew inscription; but I could neither learn its history, nor that of the mountain. At the inn we found the master of the mules; with whom we agreed for two good beasts and an attendant, to carry us to Montserrat on the following day. We are to pay four dollars for going, and the same for returning,

for two mules; and three dollars a-day for the time we choose to remain there.

The cannon-foundry at Barcelona is a magnificent establishment; and as the workmen are kept constantly in employ, the store of artillery must be immense. An officer of the engineers shewed us the furnace with the brass prepared which is to be melted to-morrow: and afterwards carried us into the workshop, where the operations of boring, scraping, polishing, and ornamenting the cannon, were going on with great alacrity. Another officer conducted us to the magazine of fire arms, sufficient for a 150,000 men; all are well kept, and shutters are making to preserve them still more carefully. We were next shewn the department where gun-carriages, artillery-carts, &c. are manufactured: a considerable number of persons were preparing wood and iron for these purposes. This superb cannon-foundry is inferior only to that of Seville. When the king was here, several cannon were cast in his presence. We observed in the principal workshop an image of the Virgin, placed in a conspicuous station, with candles before her; and the common prints of St. Francis and St. Anthony pasted upon almost every part of the walls of the manufactory.

The palace of the Tribunal of Commerce has precisely the appearance of an English

town-hall, or sessions-house of the last century: the architecture, consisting of a front of four half-columns, and a pediment with the royal arms, is regular and neat, but perfectly insipid; it is the chief building in Barcelona. In its court are placed statues of Neptune, and the four quarters of the world, which are greatly admired in this city: the first is awkward in the design, and indifferently executed; the others are a most ludicrous confirmation of what we heard yesterday, that no women are suffered to be studied as models in the academy of Barcelona.

CHAP. II.

Road to Montserrat.—Vale of the Llobregat.—Martorel.—Arch of Hannibal.—Ascent of the Mountain.—The Convent.—Hermitages.—A learned Spanish Monk.—Modern Miracles.—The Holy Image.—The Prince of the Peace.—Feast of the Holy Ghost.—Days of Indulgence.—Offices of the Monks.—Return through Terassa to Barcelona.

At six o'clock in the morning of the 27th of May, we mounted our mules, and set out on our excursion. We found the whole road enlivened by commerce and industry. The gardens which surround Barcelona are particularly striking; nothing can exceed their richness and fertility. At a considerable village where the manufacture of lace is carried on, we passed the Llobregat by a solid and handsome bridge: the view up and down the vale through which it glides, is rich and beautiful beyond description. Here the road divides itself into two, leading to Zaragosa and Valentia; we took the former, which brought us to the foot of the celebrated mountain; and we found it in tolerable order the whole way. The cultivation and fertility of the country surprised and delighted me. The plain of Capra only sur-

passes it by its pendant vines, but here the prospects are infinitely more various; hemp, corn almost ready for the sickle, vineyards, olive-groves, mulberries, and hedges of aloes, form the principal objects in the view. The Llobregat shews itself here and there; hills covered either with cultivation, or with woods of dwarf-pines, bound the landscape to the right and left; and Montserrat forms a grand back-ground for the picture. From the clearness of the atmosphere, it seemed but at a little distance, when it was twenty miles from us. The villages are remarkably clean: no heaps of filth as in Italy and Provence, no crowds of beggars; every one was employed; and the only mode of begging which the children practised, is to run out of the gardens and offer you flowers. The present scene, and the prospect of Montserrat, gave us a very delightful day. In a little village which we passed this morning, we bought some excellent bread and tolerable wine for our breakfast.

The approach to Martorel is highly picturesque; especially when a turn of the road discovers at once the town and river, the bridge, and the arch of Hannibal. The learned have doubts respecting the origin of this remnant of antiquity; some attribute it to Trajan: but the common people, with their usual decision, have given it the name of the Devil's Bridge. We found that it has

been almost entirely renovated : it is very high; and consists of three pointed arches, a great and two smaller ones. The arch of Hannibal, as it is called, stands on the side opposite the town : it is perfectly simple : being merely an arch of large cut stones without cement, and the rest consisting of irregular stones cemented together. At an inn at Martorel we rested our mules and ourselves for an hour and a half; we then pursued our journey through some groves of dwarf-pines, and a less cultivated country, to the foot of Montserrat. Here we found a small village where we reposed a moment before we ascended. The ascent reminded me strongly of the Cornici coast road of the maritime Alps, between Nice and Genoa; though there was no part so bad as to induce us to get off our mules and walk. The mountain is fine on the side towards the sea; but it is in the style of the Derbyshire, and many other white rocks with green brushwood which I have seen, though on a much grander scale than any of them. We were at first disappointed at not finding it covered with spiral cones, as Thicknesse had drawn it; but we "wound our way" in silent expectation; here and there observing an ancient stone cross, which proclaims the mountain to be a religious sanctuary. At length on turning a corner we behold the convent situated in a recess among the rocks, which

rise into cones above it. The building is very unworthy of its place and destination; it is too modern, and has more the air of a manufactory than an abbey: taking it, however, in a general view, it is an awful and picturesque retreat. We prepared our letters, and advanced to the gate: all was silent, except the faintly heard Llobregat in the vale below; the perpendicular rocks called our attention, and reminded us of some antient castle with a hanging turret. The convent itself is a collection of houses, like a town. We entered the gates about five o'clock; and observed a solitary monk, as if returning from his walk; I bowed respectfully to him, and presented my letters; he gave them back, coldly saying they were not for him. He entered the cloister; and as I observed no one else, I followed him, and begged him to direct me to find the gentleman to whom the letters were addressed: he grumbled a good deal in Catalan, and seemed perfectly out of humour: when fortunately a servant of the convent came up, took the letters, and conducted us to the chamber of father ——, to whom one of them was an introduction. He received us civilly, and offered us wine and chocolate: he spoke pretty good French; which he said he had learnt from four bishops, who at the period of the revolution escaped from the south of France into this asylum. Al-

most the first inquiry which the monk made of us was, whether we were at war or not? After some conversation, he desired a servant to shew us an apartment; regretting exceedingly that, on account of the feast of the Holy Ghost (Whit Sunday), we should be very badly lodged: he promised to call us to-morrow at four, and take us round the mountain. Our beds were what the monk had taught us to expect; but the sheets were clean, and we were so fatigued that we did not complain of any little inconvenience.

28th. At four o'clock we were roused by a knocking at our door: father —— was ready to attend us; we therefore hastily dressed ourselves, and followed him up the mountain. He had provided us with long sticks, which we found not only useful but necessary. The scene we beheld on leaving the convent gate was magnificent; we were absolutely on a level with the sun, and the whole vale below us was a vast sea of white clouds. After ascending the hill a little farther, a new and most romantic prospect broke upon us: we beheld at one view thirteen out of the fourteen hermitages, and the convent in its rocky recess beneath. The hermitages immediately above the convent have an effect more picturesque than can be well imagined; while those of St. Jago, St. Juan, and St. Oposse, seem to grow to the cones, and have a most extraor-

dinary appearance: all of them, but particularly these last, seem inaccessible. The mountain rises perpendicularly, but nature has left room for terraces: it has two crowns of cones, or bolsters; one immediately over the monastery, and the other where the hermitages which I have just mentioned are situated, and to which we now proceeded. The first we gained was St. Jago, the residence of a hermit from Grenada: he prepared us a little chocolate, which we thought to be a very insufficient breakfast, not knowing the hospitable dispositions of the other hermits. This cottage, like all the others, consisted of a little chapel, a passage, a sitting room, a study, a workshop, and a kitchen: these apartments are of different sizes in different hermitages; but the number of rooms is always the same, except indeed that in some instances the study and the sitting room are in one. His books were, as might be expected, writings and lives of saints; the *Mistica Condad di Dios* I observed in all. The workshop is for making crosses to employ time, and to give to pilgrims.

We now proceeded to St. Catherine, which is situated below; and then mounted to St. Juan and St. Oposse, which grow together on the side of a cone: in the former is preserved a bone of John the Baptist, which is the only relic to be found among

the hermitages. We now ascended still higher, to St. Madeline, were we were refreshed with some wine and bread. Above this is the highest accessible peak of this part of the mountain. We climbed to it; and, after enjoying the extensive prospect, returned to the cell of S. Madelina: then descending a flight of steps between two cones, called Jacob's Ladder, we came into the valley which runs along the summit of the mountain; this is a perfect shrubbery, and the cones are even here in the most grotesque shapes. The southern crown is called the organ, from its resemblance to a number of pipes. The day was particularly warm; and notwithstanding the prodigious height, we were scarcely once refreshed by a breath of air during our whole walk. At the end of this valley, on an eminence, stands the hermitage of St. Jerome, which is the most remote and highest of them all: it is not at present inhabited, but a young man is in training for that purpose. Near this is the most lofty station of the whole mountain: on it stands a little chapel dedicated to the Virgin, and the care of which devolves on the hermit of St. Jerome; it has lately been blasted by lightning, which did not fail to remind us of the exclamation of Lucretius, After much fatigue we seated ourselves on this lofty pinnacle, and surveyed the country round. We are here al-

most too high to see the traces of cultivation, so that the whole province has the appearance of a hilly desert: indeed the land is not fertile, except in the vale through which the Llobregat flows; but the vast industry of the inhabitants has done every thing that is possible. A stranger is principally struck by the want of towns, especially in that part towards the Pyrennees. The real character of the country, when viewed from a moderate height, is hilly, and a great part of it cultivated; but patches of barren lands, and woods of olives and pines, are every where visible. The winding of the Llobregat, and the grand outline of the snowy Pyrennees are the distinguishing features of the prospect.

Barcelona is concealed by the intervention of a mountain. The largest town we see is Manrerar, on the road to Laragona. Thicknesse is wrong in supposing that any part of Valentia can be discovered from this height; since it is a flat country, and lies behind the hills of Catalonia. Majorca and Minorca are often discerned from the convent at sunset.

The Pyrennees are neither so lofty nor so irregular as I had expected: they bear a considerable resemblance to the coast of Corsica, which I have lately seen. Just below the eminence on which we stand, is the northern extremity of the rock; perfectly inaccessible, and appearing as if sawn asunder in many parts. We descended once

more into the mountain valley, and then climbed to the hermitage of St. Antonio, the smallest of them all; we were refreshed here by an omelet, and our guide rested himself while the hermit conducted us to a spot where the echo is heard four times; the approach is difficult and dangerous; but we arrived at it, and called to many of our friends, whose names were four times re-echod among the rugged peaks of the mountain. Having rejoined the monk at the door of the hermitage, we descended towards St. Trinidad, where we were to dine. We first, however, visited St. Salvador; and where shewn a rent in the rock, which the Benedictine informed us was supposed to have been caused by the convulsion of nature at the passion of Christ, but that this was by no means certain. "St. Cyril, of Alexandria," he gravely proceeded, "describes the ravages of this convulsion; and mentions that they were traced in his day, both in Italy and Catalonia." I told him that I had seen the rent rock of Terracina.

We arrived at St. Trinidad at 3 o'clock, being warm and fatigued: this is the largest of the hermitages, and was built originally for a pleasure-house for the convent; it has two stories, is placed at a commanding extremity of the rock, and has a pretty green inclosure behind it. The hermit had prepared us a handsome repast, though he had

been restrained by its being a fast-day: he set before us salt fish, and an olio of rice, an omelet, some tunny, and a Dutch cheese; and waited on us while we were at table. We rested ourselves here for two hours, and then proceeded to the rest of the hermitages. The first we came to was St. Benito, where the mountain-vicar lives; he was the only recluse whose beard was shaved. Afterwards we walked to St. Helena and St. Demas; and at length to St. Ann, which was the last object of our perigrination. The situation of this being more centrical than the others, it is the church to which the hermits descend twice a week to be confessed, and receive the sacrament from the mountain-vicar. We now came down a very steep stair-case into the convent garden; and at seven o'clock entered, perfectly tired, the room of our friendly guide.

This day's expedition was as romantic as the fancy could wish, and curiosity was entirely satisfied; but still the spectacle with which, at a distance, my imagination has frequently been delighted, excited very different sensations when I was obliged to contemplate the reality. If enthusiasts are to be pitied, how much more so all they who, without being so, are condemned to lead the lives of enthusiasts? The hermits of Montserrat are probably quiet men, who, upon the whole, consider this mode of pas-

flections on the character of Henry the Eighth. He was more acquainted with the political state of Europe than I expected: but though he could talk upon most subjects, *the monk* shone out in all; yet the mildness and simplicity of his manners were very pleasing. He related to me in a serious and impressive manner, the history of the sacred image which was found in a cave at Montserrat in the ninth century; and the workmanship was, as usual, recognized to be that of St. Luke.* It was carried towards Zaragosa, but at Manrezor it became immovable: a sign which was readily understood by the clergy; who carried the figure back again to the mountain, which was immediately given them, and a

* The famous Lady of Loretto, and many other Madonnas painted or sculptured, claim St. Luke for their author; and indeed so high is his reputation as an artist in Italy, that several even of the best masters have represented him with an easel before him. The idea, however, is founded on a very accountable mistake. The rage for relics and church-decorations which succeeded the establishment of christianity by Constantine, gave employment to a number of artists, among whom one Lucas of Constantinople was the most eminent; it is even said that he obtained the appelation of saint from only the edifying use which he made of his talents. In process of time, when his works had acquired the rust of antiquity, they were naturally mistaken by ignorance and credulity for the works of the evangelist, and as such, in the eighth century, many of them were carefully transported from Greece into Italy, to avoid the fury of the Iconoclasts. It is needless to add, that imposition took advantage of this error, and has attached the name of St. Luke to almost every remains of religious painting or sculpture of the early ages.

convent endowed on it by the count of Barcelona. He mentioned with great pleasure the respect in which the Spanish bishops were held, and their indefatigable residence: "One bishop," said he, "of Gallicia,* who has the see of Orense, is the most holy of them all: it is reported that he has performed miracles, and indeed I believe it; for I remember him when I was at college at Salamanca, and he was then already a saint!" I could not have conceived that so much ancient prejudice and modern knowledge could have united in one mind; but this is the effect of the inquisition, which still selects and regulates the literature of Spain.† Among

* This bishop was Don Pedro de Quevedo y Quintano; from what I could learn respecting the miracles attributed to this prelate, I believe that they are all, (according to Paley's expression) of the *ten tavive* kind, and consist in recovering sick persons from dangerous illnesses by means of prayer and intercession—in this the bishop may be equally deceived with his flock, which is most probable, since I understand he is a man of the greatest piety, and totally given up to the affairs of religion. His palace at Orense is a perfect picture of the simplicity of the early church. He passes his time in the active duties of his office, always dines alone, and during his meal hears the scriptures read to him by a deacon. He resides constantly on his diocese, where he enjoys so high a reputation, that he is certain of being ranked among their saints after his death.

† Papers are published from time to time by the inquisition, containing new lists of prohibited books, which are pasted against every church door throughout the kingdom; the last came out in March, 1801. I carried away one of them, by which I afterwards discovered, from an inscription at the bottom of it, that I had incurred the penalty of the *greater excommunication.*

the stories with which the monk amused me during my stay at Montserrat, one was very remarkable; and it is interesting as it relates to the Prince of the Peace. When the court were at Barcelona, the king, accompanied by this upstart minister, made a visit to the convent, the members of which went out to receive him with due respect; but an uncle of the Prince of the Peace, who was one of the most ancient and venerable of the fraternity, to mark the abhorrence in which he held the profligacy of his nephew, instead of joining the procession retired into a remote part of the mountain, and continued there till the royal party had left the convent.

As I have mentioned the upstart minister who now rules without control this great empire, I shall here give place to the most authentic particulars which I have been able to collect relative to his history, and to the circumstances which have led to his rise. Don Manuel Godoy was born at Badajos, about the year 1766 or 1767, of parents, whose necessities were often relieved by the usual donation of soup, &c. at the convents, and who were occasionally employed in secreting smuggled goods during the night. Many of the respectable inhabitants of that city are still living witnesses of the miserable situation of the Godoy family. Their con-

nexion with smugglers,* however, increasing as the family acquired strength, it was doubtless that idea that first induced the two elder brothers, Luis and Manuel, to become soldiers in the king's life guards, where smuggling is carried on in the most open manner. Luis set out for Madrid and entered a private soldier in the life guards, where he had not done duty long, before his portly figure caught the attention of the then Princess of Asturias, who enjoyed the honours of Queen, Charles III. being a widower. She began in her usual manner of sending him rich presents, such as a snuff-box of tortoise-shell, with her portrait set in gold, which was generally worth an ounce of Spanish gold, or 3*l.* 12*s.* sterling. Sometimes articles of much greater value, and sometimes a purse full of ounces of gold. At length she ventured to procure him a pair of colours, and Luis appeared a complete officer. During this time Manuel arrived; and his brother's success enabled him to keep him as a cadet rather than to enter as a private soldier, hoping that he should soon be able to procure him preferment. In the mean time the jealous eye of Charles III. regretting his error of forcing his son to marry, became every day more alert to the gross imprudences of his daughter-in-law, and he be-

* Badajos has existed many years by smuggling only, there being no legal commerce pursued that can be avoided.

held her attachment to this new-made officer with the most poignant indignation, and sent him into exile, prohibiting his ever coming within twenty-five leagues of Madrid, giving him, however, the command of a company in the militia of Extremadura, and also of an old fortress in that province. He was also promised the cross of the military order of Alcancara, but Charles' passion was too violent to wait that ceremony, and he was dismissed with the nominal title of the order. This was the period when the family began to think seriously of nobility; and it was then that they found the noble appendage of *de Alvarez*. Whether the Godoys were originally of Alvarez, and had acquired a title to that seigniory, which the vulgar pronunciation of the Extremadurians had originally contracted, and in fine omitted, is a question I have not found any Spanish antiquary disposed to resolve. It now rests on on the *ipse dixit* of the Prince, and there exists no negative evidence. The exile of Luis was effected; and the Queen (the Princess of Asturias) with all the facility that one forgets a lady of easy virtue, forgot her lover in the pursuit of other gallants. It has been said, but erroneously, that her majesty kept sending him presents in his exile, by the hands of Manuel, who was introduced to her by the Duchess of Alva, under pretext of playing the guitar, the latter circumstance is

too ridiculous to require refutation; but the contrary is the fact, nor does it appear that the Queen ever saw Manuel till after the death of Charles III. Indeed she was too much occupied in meeting with gallants whom she could enjoy, without spending in fruitless efforts the time necessary to her other amusements. During the long banishment* of Luis, Manuel procured an appointment in the guards, and also had married an amiable young woman, by whom he has had four or five children. At length the death of Charles III. gave existence to the era of our hero's glory. On this event Luis, hoping to be recalled from exile, determined on addressing a loving memorial to her majesty, recalling to her memory the numerous tender pledges of his attachment, and his eagerness again to approach her person. The difficulty of presenting this memorial to the hands of the Queen herself, was the only obstacle; and for this Manuel was deemed the most proper person. This he performed *con*

* The precipitation and rigour of banishment from the court of Madrid, present an example of merciless cruelty and tyranny: the *desterrados* are gone in an hour, no one knows where, no one dares to ask, and no one knows their former friends or connexions, lest they should be involved in a similar fate. Nor does any one dare either to write or receive a letter. Thus a character, as popular in Madrid as some speakers in the House of Commons in London, will be precipitated in a day into an oblivion as great as if dead forty years. These are the blessings of absolute monarchy!

*cierto.** Her majesty received the memorial most graciously, but was more struck with the young, bold, and brawny figure that presented it, than with the plaintive tale of an inamorato long since enjoyed. The Queen, after appointing a more convenient hour to take the matter into consideration, and to converse with him personally, dismissed Manuel with a present, which at once indicated her private feelings and personal attachment. From this period fortune seems to have borne him on her wings to the temple of honour, as his advancement was as rapid as the smiles of that fickle goddess. Luis' exile was terminated, and he received a colonel's commission in the guards. But a new office was created for Manuel, adjutant-general of the life-guards, with the rank of major-general in the army. He had not held these situations long, till he succeeded, through the consummate address of the Queen, in ingratiating himself with the King, and was shortly after made a lieutenant-general in the army, and called upon to be one of his Majesty's ministers, in the capacity of first secretary of state. It was at this period that he acquired such a complete ascendancy over the King's mind, by doing every thing as he thought proper, without inquiring for his

* We have no word in English so emphatic as the above to express with effect.

Majesty's approbation. This was so flattering to the King's natural indolence, which hates political affairs, that he resolved never after to have another minister; and that he should govern and direct the helm of the state as might be agreeable to his particular views. His Majesty felt grateful to the man who had thus relieved him from the burden of government, and he continued pouring honours and wealth upon his head. It was now that Manuel was to be ennobled, and it must be confessed, that he evinced address, in claiming nobility from his ancestors, rather than for his personal merit. Don Manuel Godoy de Alvarez was created a grandee of Spain of the first class, under the title of Duke of Alcadia: the King bestowing on him the royal domain of Alcadia, and also the revenues of four of the most wealthy military orders, which must have been rather above than below 100,000*l.* sterling a year. The now duke of Alcadia found his power unlimited; his most distant relatives all placed in the most lucrative offices; the most trifling favours of the court not to be obtained without his permission; and the ancient grandees of Spain paying their court to him, and attending his levees with equal assiduity as those of the King's. The Queen's liberality to him, at least in her personal favours, was unremitting; and their amours now became so common, so public,

and so much in defiance of all decency or decorum, that I should be sorry to abuse the language in a description of their wanton excesses. The period of the war with France arrived, in which the Duke of Alcadia evinced more power than political sagacity. The grand council of Castille was summoned, which was then a spirited, liberal, and independent body. This council, with the brave Count de Aranda at its head, decided in favour of *defensive* measures, contrary to those of the duke. Their timidity or prudence greatly incensed the Duke of Alcadia, who determined on *offensive* measures and on plunder, dissolved the council with great indignation, and banished the worthy Count de Aranda to Sarragoza, where he survived just long enough to witness the disgrace and downfal of his country. Thus was the most noble and most ancient council in Europe annihilated by the puerile frenzy of a mushroom duke; a council instituted by Alonzo XI. and the conquerors of the Moors, in the end of the 10th or beginning of the 11th century; a council too from whose bosom sprung some of the wisest and most salutary laws, conceived in a genuine spirit of humanity, justice, and I would say liberty, were the word intelligible. This ancient council, which pointedly admonished the emperor Charles V. and which repeatedly checked the sanguinary ambition of

the Philips, is now no more. True, another under the same name has been called into existence, but it serves only to emblazon the shield of the Prince of Peace, and not to protect the rights and immunities of the nation. The war with France commenced, and during the time that the Spanish soldiers continued advancing into the French territories, they behaved with uncommon bravery, often fighting and conquering with two to three. The discordancy in the cabinet councils occasioned them to receive orders to retire immediately into the Spanish territory, and to act for the future on the *defensive* only. This order struck a panic through the whole army; and they conceived themselves insulted and betrayed, and never after fought either with inclination or courage. The frontier towns fell before the French almost on their approach; and there remained no alternative to save the country, but by making peace.—This the short-sighted Duke thought could not be bought too dear under the circumstances, and consequently made a treaty, the folly of which posterity will lament. By this treaty the Spanish territory was curtailed; St. Domingo and Louisiana were delivered up to France; and an article was concluded, by which Spain was to furnish France with so many ships of the line, well equipped, whenever the latter power should be at war; and also to pay, support, and clothe 45,000

French soldiers to protect Spain, whether in war or peace. For this treaty the besotted Charles IV. made our hero *Principe de la Paz, y Capitan General de los Exercitos Espannoles por Tierray por Mar;* giving him at the same time new domains, and the revenues of several ruined monasteries. Hitherto the impropriety of the Prince's conduct seems the natural consequence of his ignorance; but as his power and titles increased, his character appeares marked with traits of treachery, cruelty, and tyranny, which can never be erased. I allude to his treatment of Don Gasper Melchior de Hovellanes*; a man of taste and genius; a philosopher, statesman, and agriculturist, not inferior to any other in Europe. He originally courted, admired, and became the assumed friend of this philosopher, and afterwards, without any other cause than his superior talents, which were uniformly directed by wisdom and penetration to the renovation of his unhappy country, became our most cruel and inveterate enemy, condemning him causelessly to a miserable prison in Mallorca, where he was precipitated from the first secretary-of-stateship, denied all communication with his friends, (even with his wife) and the use of pen, ink, and paper, and where he still drags out a miserable solitary existence.

* The Spaniards write *j*, but pronounce it like an English *h*.

The cruel and unjust sufferings of this most worthy man, will forever stain the character of our hero with infamy and detestation. His conduct to two other respectable characters, but of less notoriety, was equally criminal and ferocious, falsely accusing them of partiality to the English.

About this period, his whimsical marriage with one of the princesses royal took place. His power now being absolute, and quite independent of the Queen, his contempt for her increased daily; which she perceiving, and never being able to discover whether he was married, proposed to her *manuelito* (a diminutive of great tenderness in Spanish,) in the public levee, to marry one of the princesses, then present, to whom she pointed. The prince answered, "that he was always ready to receive the favours of her majesty;" and the then archbishop of Toledo (an Italian) being present, the nuptials were celebrated immediately. This was the completion of his power.

At the re-establishment of the Pope, he obliged the bishops of Spain, who had enjoyed the authority of popes in their respective districts during the interregnum, to tender their obeisance to the new Pope, who in return constituted him "Protector of the holy Catholic Faith;" and the archbishop of Toledo, who celebrated his nuptials, was translated to Rome, with a cardinal's hat. The

present archbishop of Toledo and primate of Spain, Louis de Bourbon, is his matrimonial uncle. On the declaration of the unprovoked and unjust war against Portugal, our hero placed himself at the head of the soldiers, as generalissimo of the army; but his principal and only achievement was breaking up some convents of women, and dispersing the nuns throughout the country; a conduct not very consistent with a protector of the catholic faith.

Whilst we view his political character, we behold it tissued with errors, crimes, and, occasionally, traits of benevolence; but from his private character we shrink with horror and disgust, at his endless and unlimited debaucheries, unparalleled in any Christian age or country. By amour he acquired his power and honours, and by amour he determined to hold them. Fathers, mothers, husbands, brothers, will cheerfully conduct their daughters, wives, or sisters, if somewhat handsome, to the attention of our Prince, in order to procure places and pensions from government. Every Spaniard expects a place or a pension, and he conceives with justness, such means are the most likely to succeed. A handsome woman of address, indeed, seldom fails to procure either her father, husband, brother, or other relative, a place: but at what a price!!! It is common to see six or seven of these hapless vic-

tims in his saloon every morning, with whom, in proportiou to their beauty or charms, he regales himself in succession. This is a melancholy picture, but is not the less just. It is, however, a lamentable proof of the danger of satire; and had Cervantes never written his inimitable Don Quixote, a queen would never have dared to dispatch her emissaries to search for gallants, much less a prince have dared to establish a seraglio in the capital of Spain; nor would *cabronazos** have had any other existence than in words. Quixote is an innocent and amusing work to an English reader, but has proved fatal to the Spaniards. Happy would it be for Spain, had she still knights-errant in lieu of *cabronazos;* her chief towns would not then be desolated by pestilence and famine, nor her degenerate sons sunk in debility and premature old age. Notwithstanding, among those of education, there is still modesty in the men, and chastity in the women.

Of this Prince I shall only add, that he is still a tender and attentive husband to his first wife, for whose relations, as well as his own, he has made the most ample provision. To his second he is by no means unkind. To the Queen he is dreadfully severe; deter-

* I do not believe that either our language or morals would be benefited by a translation of this word: yet as curiosity may be more dangerous than truth, it means "men who sell their wives' favours."

minedly thwarting all her schemes, and depriving her of every vestige of regal authority.

This unhappy woman, who, whether, as it is said, she be subject to an infirmity of nature, or whether from an abandoned principle, the natural consequence of an Italian education, must be classed with a Messalina, that has greatly injured Spain. Her private memoirs have been published, and said to be authentic by those who ought to know; but such is the nature of the work, that oblivion is its only desert. To account for the contempt and ill-usage of the Prince to her, it has been supposed that she had, in some unguarded moment of pleasure, proposed to him the death of the King, or some such desperate expedient; otherwise it is thought, he never would have dared to treat her in the manner he does. The King, simple man, knows nothing, nor minds nothing but fowling, to which he is extremely attached, and is an excellent marksman. The Queen is devoted to the searching for gallants, and the Prince conducts the government, and creates new nobles as he thinks fit. He is not really an enemy to learning, as he has been accused, but his schemes to protect it have been badly conceived, and proved equally fatal to the progress of knowledge. An instance appears in the absurd privilege given to the late Don Joseph Cavanilles, whose pupils only were permitted to fill the professors' chairs

in the different universities and public schools; all others, even those of prior information, not disciples of Cavanilles, were prohibited being professors of botany. Cavanilles resided a long time in Paris, where he acquired more cunning and intrigue than philosophy; and his great labours consisted in reducing (improperly) the classes of Linnæus to fifteen. Such have been the left-handed efforts of the Prince to protect learning, and encourage the arts and sciences. Of his manners, they are strongly marked with provincialism; at first violent and impetuous; then cool, repentant, and meditative, and, in fine, passive, yielding, and friendly. He is a very able-bodied man, at present very corpulent: of a figure more agreeable from its strength than beauty; of the deportment of a man of business rather than that of a courtier or philosopher; and of a mein more strong than noble. He is not destitute of talents, yet he rarely shews that depth of perspicacity or shrewdness, which uneducated men, of strong minds, generally evince. His levees are regularly and numerously attended by the first nobility of Spain: and he is not wanting in attention to the fair part of his visitants. He is, however, hated and feared by the ancient grandees, whose privileges and influence he has greatly curtailed. In short, his ignorance, his pride, and his debaucheries, have ruined

and disgraced his country, and cannot be held in too great detestation. His annual income has been estimated at upwards of 250,000*l.* sterling, but is probably much more.

As we returned from Father ——'s chamber to our lodgings, we found the yard and the cloisters of the monastery full of peasants, who had arrived to celebrate the feast of the Holy Ghost in this sanctuary. They were all in their holiday apparel, and seemed to consider it a great festival: some had brought their own provisions; others purchased them at a shop which was instituted for the purpose in the abbey, and made little fires to cook them. At night they made their beds all round the cloister, which served also as a stable for their mules.

Whit-Sunday, 29th. We were awakened early this morning by the bustle of visitors assembled from the neighbouring country. At seven we breakfasted in the cell of father—— He told us that we were too late for an *office*, which had been sung at four o'clock that day by the choristers; but at half-past eight the brotherhood will sing *thirds*. At this hour we attended in the church, which the monk told us was respected as much as any in Christendom, even those at Rome. It is a dismal building of the age of Philip II. ornamented with flowers richly gilt. The choir is a raised

gallery above the door; and the precincts of the altar are divided from the nave by a high iron grating. A vast number of silver lamps, given and maintained by the piety of individuals, are suspended within this enclosure. Above the altar the celebrated sacred image glittered in all its finery. *Thirds* were sung, accompanied by the organ; after which the monks descended, and made a procession, singing round the cloister. Upon their return to the church, high mass was chanted; the organ, and a band of fiddles, bassoons, &c. alternately accompanied, and a more lively selection of opera music was probably never heard. During this the people seemed to be engaged in private prayer: those that knelt had their eyes fixed on the Virgin, and were evidently in earnest supplication. After the hermits had received the communion, the high mass was finished; *sixths* were immediately sung, and the whole business of the morning was over about half past eleven. Upon leaving the church, a general confusion took place to prepare dinner; and it was not without considerable exertion that the day did not turn out to us a perfect fast. At half past four o'clock we rejoined father —— in the sacristy; and here he shewed us the treasures of the convent, which is now the richest in the world. The chief relics are a bone of John the Baptist; some wood of the cross;

two thorns from Christ's crown, one of which had its point bloody; the bodies of several African bishops who fled from the Vandals into Sardinia, &c.

The treasury contains a vast number of diamonds and precious stones, formed into the most tasteless ornaments. The large crown of the Virgin is the richest and ugliest of them all. A good cameo of Medusa's head, and a large opal, have been attempted to be purchased by many English travellers. These are kept in a passage leading to the sacristy, to which any one may have access; and a very common lock and key is their only protection except the Virgin, who our conductor told us loudly before the people was the surest safeguard. When we had seen these he led us up a narrow stair-case into three little oratories: that in the middle has a door which opens into the niche where Nostra Senora di Montserrat is placed. After a curtain had been dropped between the lady and the church, and two or three candles lighted, we were permitted to approach the venerable image. The wood of which it is made is perfectly black from age. The countenances of the mother and the child are without meaning; but the expression is not, as I have seen it in some objects of devotion, absurd or ridiculous. The crown of the Virgin is superb but in the most barbarous taste: it was made by a

monk at Lima, and is studed all over with large emeralds. The image is about six feet high. Father —— told us it was not presumed to know of what wood it is made; and gravely added, that a painter who wished to give a colour to its African visage, was instantly struck blind for his audacity. As we were walking in the convent garden this afternoon, whence father —— pointed out to us a road by which we might return to Barcelona, I resolved, before I parted with a man so well versed in catholic history and ceremonies, to enquire of him of the days of indulgence granted by his church. He told me that it was the usage of the primitive church, to impose a penance of a certain number of days, months, and years, upon those who were guilty of what are denominated mortal sins; such as adultery, murder, sacrilege, &c.: but when the delinquent manifested a great feeling of penitence, the term of his penance was abridged a certain number of days, which were called *days of indulgence*. These penances were instituted to wipe off the offences in this world, which must otherwise be expiated in purgatory. At present the church has left off inflicting such punishments, and in consequence sinners are referred to a future state for their sufferings; but the Pope to whom the keys of heaven and hell are given, possesses the same power to abridge the term of penance

in the next as he has in the present world, which privilege he still exercises, and upon certain conditions (such as confession and penitence) delivers to sinners indulgences both limited and plenary; but the Pope only can confer to churches the power of granting *plenary indulgences*. Bishops may grant forty,* and archbishops eighty days; but several prelates may subscribe their quotas, and make up an inviting number, as we see in the common paper pasted on almost every door in Catalonia: "Ave Maria potissima sin peccato concebida," with the promise that whoever devoutly repeats these words gains one thousand two hundred and sixty days of indulgence. Any one who visits the church of Montserrat once in a year, is confessed, and receives absolution,

* There is evidence of this custom in St. George's Chapel at Windsor. A missal was formerly placed in one of the arches of the nave, which still retains the following inscription in Gothic characters: "Who lyde this Booke here? The reverened fader in God, Richard Beauchamp, bishop of this diocess of Sarysbury. And wherefore? To this intent, that preests and ministers of Goddis church may here have the occupation thereof, saying divine service: and for all other that lysten to sey thereby the devotyon, as heth he any spiritual nede: yet as moche as our Lord lyst to reward him his good intent, praying every man whose dute or devotyon is eased by this booke, they will say for him thys commune oryson, Domine Jesu Christe, knelyng in the presence of this holy crosse; for the wyche the reverened fader in God aboveseyd hath granted of the tresure of the churche to every man 40 dayys of pardon."

Richard Beauchamp lived in the reign of Edward IV.

gains a plenary indulgence. Such is the explanation which I received of these frequent inscriptions, "Indulgenza plenaria, quotidiana toties quoties," which had so often excited my curiosity in Italy. After taking leave of father—— with every expression and feeling of gratitude, we returned to our apartment. In our way thither we observed the holiday-peasantry eagerly employed in purchasing ribbands, crosses, rosaries, and rings, from a shop in the convent; and we have since scarcely seen a common man or woman without some such amulet, particularly the rings.

The monastery of Montserrat was founded, as I have before mentioned, in the ninth century, by the count of Barcelona; it is of the Benedictine order, which has been reformed into many different congregations. This is the congregation of Valladolid. The convent consists of eighty monks, all priests, who have thirty converts, or lay-brothers, to wait upon them. The choristers form a third, and the hermits a fourth, division of the body. Each monk has three or four rooms, from the windows of which the view of the rocks and the Llobregat is as delightful as possible. A new abbot is chosen every four years. Their offices are as follow: at twelve at night they sing *matins*, and immediately after *lauds*; at six *prime*; afterwards *chapter*; at nine *tiers*; after this

grand mass, and immediately *sixths*. They dine about eleven. Upon leaving the refectory they proceed to *nones*; vespers at half past two; and complin in summer at five; in winter earlier. After complin, silence is to be observed. They retire to bed about eight. Their library, though considerable, is notwithstanding one of the worst collections that I ever saw. Spanish divinity without end. The only English book that I observed was Anglia Sacra, by Wharton: the humanity class very scanty. In the evening the visitors and pilgrims became very jovial, singing and dancing with great glee; some were excessively drunk; but what surprised me still more, was a party of tradesmen from Barcelona, who kept me awake half the night by roaring out deep nasal tones in imitation of the monks singing at mass.

May 30. We wished to continue our route this morning at four, but the convent gates were not opened till six. A vast crowd of peasants departed with us, carrying boughs of the trees which grow on the mountains; others remained to keep up the festival. Our guide decorated his fingers with rings bought in the convent. We descended by a steep and dangerous road, which obliged us to walk the greater part of the way to Monestrol, a village at the base of the mountain, belonging to the con-

vent: its original name was Monstrulum, from some small religious edifice which formerly existed there. At present it has a church with ten residentiary priests—an enormous number for so insignificant a town: it took us three quarters of an hour to arrive here. We passed the Llobregat, and proceeded by an irregular pathway towards Vacarisas: we preferred this return that we might, in a general view, see the interesting face of the mountain which Thicknesse has represented: but our observations did not at all tend to confirm his accuracy. Instead of the dark effect which he has given it, Montserrat appears perfectly white; and the rocks which are more like bolsters than spires, are made too spiring and pointed in his print.

Montserrat has three sides; that towards Barcelona (the north-east) is bold and rugged, but by no means extraordinary; the face it presents on the west side, towards Vacarisas, is more striking. The mountain here appears to have been built up perpendicularly, and to have received from the hand of nature two crowns of cones and bolsters; other fantastic pinnacles arise in other parts, but these two form the prominent features. Between them the mountain retires, and leaves a convenient sheltered recess for the monastery a little more than half way up its side. In this view also the greater num-

ber of the hermitages are seen; they are all defended by their situation from the north wind. The rock is white, composed of myriads of pebbles and small stones apparently cemented together: every side of it appears dignified, and embellished with shrubs. It stands alone in a hilly country; and attracts the eyes as well as the devotion of the seamen of Barcelona, and the whole province of Catalonia. The most stupendous prospect, however, which this mountain exhibits, is on the road to Villa-franca. Its extraordinary length, and magnificent irregularity, are there seen with every possible advantage, and the most imposing effect. Its height is probably not much more than two thousand feet, but it appears loftier from the low hills by which it is surrounded. At a peasant's house (for we passed Vacarisas to the left) we obtained some tolerable bread and wine; which, with the addition of two excellent omelets, gave us the unexpected pleasure of a good breakfast. The heat now began to be excessive; so that while we were almost melted, we shuddered at the prospect of the southern provinces. The land is almost every where cultivated in corn and vines; but though it is by no means fertile, the groves of dwarf pines seem to be the only interruption to the labours of the peasant. The vines are at present short and without support; the precision of their ar-

rangement, and the tender green colour of their leaves, render them a pretty object in the landscape. We pursued our track through several clean white villages, without beggars, to Tarassa, where we were glad to refresh and to repose ourselves during the heat of mid-day. The peasants of Catalonia have a curious mode of drinking; the wine-bottles are made somewhat in the form of a tea-pot; by means of a tube they spout the wine into their mouths at a little distance, and are very adroit in this clean custom. I have seen half a dozen peasants at dinner, who have handed round the bottle during the whole meal without once touching the spout with their lips; the water-vessels are made for the same practice. This mode of drinking is ancient and classical, as may be seen in the frescoes of Herculaneum.

From Tarassa we continued our route to Savendell, resting an hour by the way: these are rather neat towns, and contain cloth manufactories. It being holiday-time, we met a vast many peasants on the road in their best clothes; and we had fresh occasion to admire this fine race of clean and industrious people. We passed a mountain covered with white goats and sheep: the latter are most of them black, with small horns, and their appearance is very lean and scraggy. After riding through the lively village of St. Andreol, we found ourselves in the fertile

and populous vicinity of Barcelona. The city, backed by Monjoich, has a pretty look on this side; and though it was impossible for us, whose eyes had been so lately feasted with the charms of Naples and Genoa, to be struck with the villas of Barcelona, yet returning from monastic solitude, they delighted us extremely. We hastened lest we should be too late for the gates, which are always shut at eight o'clock.

Our journey to-day has been at least forty miles, and a bad road; but I earnestly advise any traveller who wishes to be pleased and surprised by Montserrat, to prefer it to the other (through Martorel:) by this means he will receive his first impression from a most interesting general view of the mountain, and his curiosity will thus be sharpened instead of checked. It is ten miles further, and the road is worse; but it is all to be done in a day.

We found the Rambla (the parade of Barcelona) crowded by all the middle orders of the citizens; men, women, priests, and monks. It was the double holiday of Whit-Monday and Saint Renpands. After the opera, about thirty carriages moved in procession: they were generally shabby, both as to the vehicle and the equipage; and many were of the ancient square form. The general's (which was preceded by two dragoons) and that of the governor, were in

the Parisian fashion: the harness of both was handsome, and decorated with silver; the latter had plumes on the horses' heads.

May 31st. Being determined to set out at all events for Valencia to-morrow, we sent for a master muleteer, and agreed with him for two volantes, which were to perform the journey in seven days. The distance is fifty-five leagues, about two hundred and twenty miles; and we are to pay twenty-four dollars for each carriage. On our calling at the banker's, he presented us with the king's declaration of war, dated the 16th. Though prepared to expect such an event, yet we were a little confounded; but it still more increased our anxiety to set out for Madrid.

CHAP. III.

Environs of Barcelona.—Plain of Villa-Franca.—Roman Antiquities.—Paragona.—Late Archbishop.—San Carlos.—Barren Tract.—Castle of Almenara.—Plain of Valencia.—Saguntum.—Valencia.—The Theatre.

We left Barcelona about seven in the morning of the 1st of June; and at the gates were obliged, as usual, to fee the custom-house officers. The neat and fertile gardens, and the rich vale of Llobregat, attracted as much admiration as our former journey to Montserrat. The hedges of fine lofty aloes, which are seen in every cultivated part of Catalonia, are perhaps one of its most remarkable features. Soon after we passed the Llobregat, which is almost dried up, we came into a dull country of hills, covered with dwarf-pines. At 12 o'clock we arrived at a venta, not very dirty, where we remained till three, during the heat of the day; here we procured some omelets and wine. After dinner the same uninteresting landscape accompanied us for the greater part of the way; the road however is excellent, raised and bricked up at the sides. In one place an attempt has been

made to throw a bridge with two ranges of arches across a small valley, to shorten the route; but it has failed, from want of skill in the architect. Near it is building a country seat for a rich citizen of Barcelona, which I mention as it is a novelty and a curiosity in Spain to see a villa really in the country. Cultivation began to shew itself here and there. Towards the evening at length the rich and picturesque plain of Villa-franca opened on us, and closed the prospects of the day. It is an irregular piece of ground, generally clothed with vineyards, barley, hemp, &c. but not entirely cultivated; having pine groves which intersect the fields in different parts, and add infinitely to the beautiful variety of the scene. The great object, however, which attracts and absorbs all our attention, is the fine blue spiral mass of Montserrat. I had no idea of its length, and of its magnificent irregularity, till this view was set before me: it is more striking and surprising than any thing I ever beheld.

We arrived, about eight o'clock, at a good posada in Villa-franca, which is kept by an Italian, having performed only seven leagues (twenty-eight miles) in the whole day's journey. We visited the cathedral; but it was too dark to examine the interior. Externally it has the air of a large English country church; plain, with buttresses, a tower,

and a short spire. The town is neat, and contains many shops; the houses are of plaister, well white-washed. We supped in company with several other travellers, who were all eager for our news concerning the war. The repast was a perfect banquet, and gave a deceitful specimen of the fare at Spanish inns: and as this was unique, I will insert an account of it. The company were eight in number: our first course consisted of fish, stewed beef, and stewed pigeons; the second a leg and loin of a kid, sallad, three chickens, peas, and burnt cream; for our share of this, and our beds, &c. we were only charged three pesettas (thirty pence) each. A curious affray took place after supper. As the muleteers and the females of the inn were familiarly conversing in a balcony at the end of the room, the noise they made so enraged a German of the company, that after frequently commanding silence, he seized the foremost of the men, and attempted to force him out of the room: this, however, the other indignantly resisted: and in a furious passion, snatched up half a dozen plates from the side-table, to fling at his adversary, to whose aid I advanced, and wrested the plates out of his hand. After a great deal of quarrelling (in which all the strangers spoke their own language, and the females resolutely took the muleteers' part) the intruders left the room grumbling, and we retired to rest.

2. We set out this morning at half past four o'clock; and as we left the vale of Villa-franca, gave a parting look of admiration to the pinnacles of Montserrat. The country through which we proceeded was cultivated, though not very fertile. The few villages we saw were neat; and, like the others of Catalonia, bespoke the industry of their inhabitants: in one of them we breakfasted on oranges, bread, and wine. Soon afterwards we came to a Roman arch, of no beauty except the colour of the stone: it has two Corinthian pilasters on each side the aperture, and a light entablature. The traces of the inscription are almost entirely obliterated. It is supposed to have been the ancient entrance into the Campus Terraconensis, but I think without any probability. The common people, as usual, refer it to the time of the Moors. The posada, where we stopped during the heat of the day, afforded us some excellent muttonchops, salt fish, and salad, for which we were charged four pesettas. After dinner we passed several pine groves; in one of which, by the road side, stands a monument of the same coloured stone as the arch which I have just mentioned: it is plain, without dignity or grace. In the middle of the front next to the sea, are two figures in relievo of mourning warriors, considerably defaced, and very moderately designed. At the upper part is an inscription,

of which only a few words are now legible. It is called the tomb of the Scipios (the father and the uncle of Scipio Africanus). The probability of this, or perhaps the idea altogether, has arisen from their having both been killed in Spain; and from the first word, which seems to have been Cornelio, particularly as we know Cornelius was the name of one of them.

The slowness of our vehicle, and the prospect of having five more days to travel, and even then to be but half-way to Madrid, began at this moment to dismay me greatly; but my attention was soon called off from these considerations by the rich plain, and picturesque little city, of Tarragona. In this fertile spot the harvest of barley, rye, and oats, was begun; and we admired, as we passed along, the numerous broad luxuriant fig-trees which grew among the cornfields.

Tarragona stands upon a rocky elevation, and has the remains of ancient fortifications surrounding it with a pleasing irregularity. A few old buildings, and the tower of the cathedral, rise above them; so that it had all the appearance of a town of the thirteenth century, and after entering we might still continue the delusion. It is every where dirty and ill built, and swarms with monks and priests. To our great surprise, the muleteer informed us that there was no posada

where we could sleep, but that we must continue our journey into the country for another hour:—an archiepiscopal city without an inn, on the high road between Valencia and Barcelona! We had just time to visit the cathedral, which is peculiarly interesting, since its date is ascertained: and it affords a proof that the same change, from the round to the pointed arch, took place in Spain during the twelfth century, as we know it assumed at the same era in our own country. The building is, in general, plain and massive; but the lantern and stalls, which are of a later date, are rich and beautiful.

The archbishop, Don Francisco Armana, is just dead. He was a man of such eminent sanctity, that when the king visited the town in his return from Barcelona, and the prelate knelt to kiss his hand, the king begged him to rise, and said, "It is I, reverend father, who must ask that favour of you." Then turning to his family, he said, "Behold a saint of an archbishop! I desire you will all follow my example."

We had neither time nor inclination to search for the traces of ancient Tarraco. Upon leaving the city, which is even more picturesque on this side than on the other, we again descended into the Campo Tarragones, which is equal in richness and beauty to Campania itself. It is surrounded by

an amphitheatre of blue mountains, and is filled with corn and vines: these are planted in strips, like variegated ribands; the corn in the middle, edged on each side with a row of green vines. Fig and olive-trees are every where frequent, high aloes skirt the road, and several villages are prettily interspersed in the landscape. After jolting for three quarters of an hour over a bad road, we arrived at Santa Seraphina, a solitary *venta*, at half past eight. This venta (for it is impossible to translate the word,) like all the others which I have seen, is built over a stable, and has a public sitting-room with a few bed-rooms opening into it; the former emitted a most offensive smell, and was embellished in different places with piles of pigeons' dung. Mounting a ladder to see, as we thought, an upper chamber, we found a large pigeon-house; so that, even if we had received no other assurances, we might have been certain that the house was well stored with fleas. None of the rooms have any windows: the air and the light are equally excluded by wooden shutters. Indeed I do not wonder that Fischer advises travellers rather to brave the August suns of Andalusia, than to pass long winter nights in these solitary and comfortless hovels. Our sheets were clean; and we however had every advantage of a light supper.

We departed, as usual, at half past four o'clock; passing for some time through a cultivated and rather fertile country, which at length changed to an absolute desert. We proceeded lamentably slow over an indifferent road; and passed Hospitalet, a venta near the ruins of a fort on the sea-coast. Here we observed a patrole of soldiers setting out on the same route as ourselves; which exciting our enquiries, we found that we were approaching a district frequented by banditti. The soldiers were returning to their station, which was the house where we stopped to dine in the middle of the day, and where they arrived long before us. It was near twelve before we came to this lonely mansion, which is built against the tower and walls of an ancient castle. It afforded some fish (sardines) and an omelet; and we rested in it till three o'clock, when we again set forward. The road was excellent all the way to the town were we slept, which was twelve miles off; but it lay through a country where every rock and every bush seemed to warn us of danger. On one side was the sea; on the other a range of barren rocks; and on both, between the road and these objects, an irregular ground covered with dwarf, rosemary, and other underwood. This sameness of prospect is now and then varied by a straggling grove of pines; which, however, does

not by any means give the country a more lively appearance. At eight o'clock we arrived at a very clean posada in Perillo, having travelled eight leagues (thirty-two miles) in the course of the day.

4th. We left our inn at the usual time. The land about the town is cultivated, but our prospects soon became very dreary. We advanced slowly across a barren heath to the bank of the Ebro, a fine broad river which rushes towards the sea with a yellow muddy stream: the view before us is that of an ungenial country covered with carob-trees, and is terminated more inland by a barren ridge of grey rocks. As we were waiting for the ferry-boat, or rather two boats with a platform over them, the wind swept very coldly across the desert. The ferrying business was managed with great adroitness; and we were landed at La Posta, a miserable village, the first dirty one we have seen in Spain. The country, as we proceed, is here and there enlivened by corn-fields; and every where covered by the algarrobo, or carob-trees, which are short and bushy, bearing long pods, which are eaten by the pigs as well as by the peasants. We dined at a beautiful little village, built by the king, near the sea-side, and called from him San Carlos. A port is here constructed for fishing-boats; but a long stretch of land which renders these roads convenient

for vessels of a larger size, has been the occasion of the foundation of the town. The works were discontinued in consequence of the war with France in 1792, and the church and many other buildings still remain in an unfinished state.

About eight miles from hence we passed the foot of the last mountain of Catalonia; and entered, by a bridge over a small dry course of a river, the kingdom of Valencia. The plain here widens with hills in the distance, the cultivation improves, the road is better, and the change of dress immediately shews itself. The costume of Valencia is not perhaps quite so picturesque as that of the Catalans: but it is very much so; and is certainly more uncommon, and better suited to a hot climate. The Valencians are tall and strong, with long black hair, and fine dark eyes; but they do not appear so handsome as their neighbours. As we approached the town of Binrosas, the country became exceedingly rich; and near the town it is a perfect garden. The vines, hemp, corn, &c. are planted with the nicest regularity; and are interspersed with fig, palm, and other trees. All the peasants were busy at work; trimming, hoeing, pruning, and watering the fields:—and all this close to the sea too! The inn at Binrosas is large, and is kept by an Italian: we had the ill luck to arrive when every chamber was engaged except one;

which, as might be supposed, was not the best. Two travellers visited us almost as soon as we got in, who requested that their carriage might accompany ours to-morrow, as part of the road which we should be obliged to travel had lately been infested by robbers. When we retired to bed, about eleven, the whole town was resounding to the guitars, tamborines, and castanets, of the dancing peasantry.

5th. Sunday. The muleteers attended mass this morning at four o'clock, in consequence of which our departure was delayed till a little after five. A volante, containing an Italian and a Dutchman (the travellers with whom we spoke last night,) joined us on the way. The road deviates more than usual from the sea it is in admirable repair, and we passed along pleasantly, though without much variety, through a country filled with vineyards, and bounded on each side by a range of barren hills. On one of these we observed, in an elevated situation, the ruins of an ancient castle built in the Moorish wars. The towns here are more dirty than those of Catalonia. After a pause of three hours in the middle of the day, our party, consisting of three carriages and nine men, set forward again and proceeded over the district said to be infested by the robbers. The road was excellent; and lay through a valley here and there pro-

during corn, but almost entirely covered with carob, olive-trees, and underwood. The hills on each side are pleasing, and we could hardly conceive it a more dangerous spot than the lonely heath between Hospitalet and Perillo. Our advanced guard was at one time thrown into a little alarm by the sudden appearance of eight stout men (some carrying guns) from the wood; but they passed us quietly, and we arrived about seven in perfect safety at a solitary venta by the road-side. The exterior of this edifice was truly discouraging; and to complete our misery, the Dutchman, with an activity of which we had no expectation, while our servant was haggling with the women below, skipped up stairs and took possession of the best room. Though wretched in itself, the venta is pleasantly situated, being surrounded by a grove of olives, carobs, palms, and aloes. On one side is the sea at a few miles distance; on the other the hills are pleasingly varied, and a ruinous castle on one of them is a prominent and picturesque object in the scene.

6th. As our muleteer promised to take us to-day as far as Morviedro, we were induced to rise by candle-light and get into our carriage at three o'clock. In the course of the morning we traversed a dreary country, and passed over the Puente di Villa Reale, a very noble modern bridge across the nearly dry

bed of a river. In proceeding through the town of Castaneo, we could not help observing that we had taken leave of glass windows. The houses here are rude; generally one story high for the lower orders, and not more than two for the more opulent inhabitants: the window-shutters have small apertures, which are open for air when the heat requires the former to be closed. It is a clean and lively town. As we left it, we passed a convent; and observed that we had seen fewer of these edifices, and fewer clergy, in all the towns on the road except Tarragona, than we expected. A vast number of monumental crosses, chiefly of wood, about three feet high, attracted our attention today; though we have observed them less frequent in other places. The cross is erected on the spot where a murder, quarrel, or accident happened, and the parish buries the dead. A superb road, enlivened by the passing and repassing of industrious peasants, and leading through a country well cultivated with vines, olives, carobs, beans, bearded wheat, &c. brought us about twelve o'clock to the cleanest venta we have met with in our journey.

At three o'clock, the muleteers being impatient, our cavalcade was again in motion. The day was dreadfully hot; the road, if possible, improved; yet we again met with the dull prospect of fields a little cultivated,

but every where covered by an orchard of carob-trees. An interesting object, however, at length roused our attention; the castle of Almenara, admirably situated for defence upon a rock with three peaks, lofty, for the most part inaccessible, and entirely detached from the neighbouring hills: the keep stands upon the topmost eminence, surrounded by out-works, which descend and extend themselves to the other two points, where watch-towers are erected. We wished we could have seen it more accurately. Neglect, and its exposed situation near the sea, seem to have conspired to leave nothing but the mere shell; and even through this the tempest has made its way for many a winter. Full of this antiquity, we turned the corner of the rock on which it stands, and were in a moment called off to behold a scene which nature, industry, imagination, and memory, all conspire to render one of the most delightful in the world. We had been disappointed that, within twenty-five miles of Valencia, the country wore no extraordinary aspect of fertility; but now the plain of Valencia opens upon us, full of all the riches of nature,—vines, corn, vegetables, mulberries, carobs, olives, figs, &c.: some picturesque palms in the fore-ground; behind, a range of mountains beautifully sloping; and at a great distance, the insulated rock which bears the

ruins of Saguntum:—all this viewed by the glowing tints of sun-set! The plain of Capua is always quoted as the most beautiful instance of fertility, and its pendant vines are certainly delicious; but here the prospect is more diversified, and infinitely more like a garden. All the vines and vegetables are arranged with the nicest precision; channels are formed, and water flows to every part, either directed from the rivers in the neighbourhood, or drawn up from wells by mules. The varied colours and irregular groupes of trees are highly pleasing. What a glorious triumph of nature and industry! What a delicious evening! All the peasants carrying their ploughs and their mat beds on their mules, and returning from their work singing. But as we walked along this noble road, it was not nature and industry alone which engaged our attention. At one end of the vista rises the castle of Almenara; at the other the rock, whose sides are interspersed with, and whose top is crowned by the ruins of Saguntum, consisting of rugged towers and embattled walls, which are very numerous and picturesque. At its foot stands the town of Morviedro; by the road side is an ancient mausoleum with a cross rising above it; and near it a rude obelisk, built of irregular stones, and bearing four coats of arms, signifying the spot where the diocesses of Valencia, Ma-

jorca, Portosa, and Segorba, meet and are separated. The costume of the peasants adds greatly to the high interest of the scene. We found a good posada at Morviedro; where we drank tea, and slept comfortably.

June 7th. We arose early this morning, and at six a guide attended us to the ruins of Saguntum. We were anxious to see the architectural taste of a Roman town so far removed from the seat of the arts; but of this there remain only slight traces. Saguntum was admirably situated for luxury and defence: it stood upon a steep rock; which, detached from the neighbouring ridge of hills, projects boldly into the fertile plain of Valencia. Its station was not too high for convenience, and high enough for security. The principal object which remains of it, is the theatre; without doubt the rudest fragment of antiquity that I have any where seen. The seats, all broken and chipped, are formed out of the same stone, and have almost the appearance of part of the rock; its height is nearly the same as that of the larger theatre of Pompeia; but this rises more suddenly, and has the peculiarity of three ranges of vomitories, besides the doors of the upper corridor. It is evident that the proscenium must have been where the road passes at present; and what is now called the stage, which has been divided into several parts by walls, must be the remnant of

the architectural scene. There are twenty-seven ranges of seats under the upper corridor: and the circular part of the theatre is placed, as is usual, against the side of the hill, from whence the rich plain of Almenara, terminated by its ancient castle, is entirely commanded. The theatrical spectators of London and Paris have never enjoyed so superb a scene as those of Saguntum; and I think if it could be transported, it would go far to reconcile us all to the unity of place. This edifice is so constructed, that a person speaking at the end of the stage in a low voice, is easily understood in the uppermost seats. We desired our guide to speak something for this purpose; upon which he immediately began the Ave Maria.

Ascending higher, we entered the Moorish fortifications which crown the long ridge of these rocks. Here we were introduced to a few rude antiquities: which were chiefly the pavements of temples, the bases of half a dozen columns, and some inscriptions of the times of the Cesars, all of the grey stone of the place. Only two remains of marble are visible: the capital of an Ionic pillar, in a corrupt and loaded style; and a small statue of a priest, which has lost its head, but is not without grace. We were informed that about twenty years ago an excavation was attempted among the ruins by an Englishman, who was very active, and wrote a

great deal. He discovered the Ionic capital, some coins, and the pavement of a temple. Since his effort, no one has made any attempt, till six years back; when Don de Pach, a Castilian, archbishop of Saragossa, visited this place, continued two days living with the hermit, and broke up the ground around the tower of Hercules, which stands on the highest part of the rock. He found a skeleton and some coins: the latter he took away; declaring that if he were archbishop of Valencia, he would build a palace on this spot. The coins which are sometimes found here, are purchased by the procurator of Morviedro, who has a collection. The king, in his late tour, inspected these ruins: which in consequence experienced the loss of an ancient statue that had remained here for ages; his majesty ordering it to be removed to ornament the custom-house of Valencia. When the Moors got possession of this station, they seized upon the stones of the amphitheatre, and perhaps many other ancient buildings, and constructed with them towers and a great extent of fortification: many parts of this work, however, particularly the battlements, are formed entirely of a strong composition made with lime and small stones. Near the pavement of the temple of Diana (as it is called) and in other places, are circular ranges of stones like wells, having a tree in the centre of each.

Here, our guide informed us, the women of Saguntum burned themselves and their effects when the city was taken by Hannibal.

The view of the plain of Valencia from the hermitage which is built among the ruins, is the finest prospect of the kind I ever beheld. The beautiful verdure, the neatness and immense extent of cultivation, the faint white towers of the capital daily seen at a distance, the bright blue sea stretching along the horizon, and meeting every where a garden on its banks, formed a scene which was admired by us even after the wonders which we had seen in Italy.

On our return to the posada, we looked into a cottage which was entirely full of silk-worms, in their vermicular, spinning, and grub states. A girl told us that last year she had derived from three pounds and a half of silk-worms (wrapped up in their produce) two ounces and three quarters of silk. We set forth at about ten o'clock to traverse the rich plain to Valencia, which is three leagues distant. The road is magnificent, and we were kept in constant admiration. As we approached the capital of the province, towns and scattered houses of the rustic gardeners began to make a frequent appearance: the latter are thatched, and have small wooden crosses on their roofs. A fine convent of Bernardines was on our left, with a garden of palm-trees. When

we entered the suburbs, these instantly ceased, and we found ourselves in a scene as new and surprising as if first landing in a foreign country. We were upon a large bridge over the bed of a river, at present almost dry. Three other bridges were in view, ornamented with saints under canopies: leading to a picturesque city, surrounded by ancient fortifications, with a Gothic gateway; and shewing a vast many antique towers, houses, and some bronze-tiled domes above the walls. All this filled us with astonishment; but we entered only to wonder more. Here we saw narrow streets, people in strange costume, frequent Gothic edifices, shops with large paintings of saints for their signs, and seldom having glass in the windows, awnings stretched across the way, and projecting lattices: indeed, after this, I can no longer entertain the common idea, that an Englishman takes his leave of all grand subjects of surprise after he has spent his first day at Calais.

We put up at the Tres Reges, the Fonda de la Par (the best inn) being entirely full. We found the rooms bearing the names of saints; and over the house door was inscribed "Sancti tres Reges, Caspar, Melchior, & Balthasar, orate pro nobis, nunc & in hora mortis nostræ!" An almanac is nailed up in the passage, to tell when the sacrament is exposed in the churches.

At six o'clock we attended the theatre; and in our way thither observed many shopkeepers sitting on their counters, and playing their guitars. We paid a pesetta each, and were shewn into an empty pit: indeed the number of persons in the whole house might easily have been counted. The stage is small, and the house remarkably ill-constructed; it is twelve boxes in length, three stories high, and the pit only fifteen paces broad: the boxes are entirely open, with wooden balustrades; the whole painted white. The comedy performed was La Reconciliacion di Jos dos Hermanos (the Birth-Day, as represented at Covent Garden) taken or rather abridged from Kotzebue. The scenery was new, but badly painted; and the acting execrable, totally without spirit. To me the audience seemed to be asleep. The prompter, shewing his head in the front of the stage without any concealment, appeared much the most prominent character in the piece; and his droning voice, nearly as loud as that of the actors, was heard reciting the play from beginning to end. The partition between the house and the street is so thin (and what rendered this more unfortunate, is the situation of the theatre near the city gate) that at every moment, in the most interesting scenes of the comedy, carriages were heard passing, mules jingling their bells, and at one time the guard

examining a passport, was louder than the prompter. There was hardly a laugh, and not one applause during the whole performance. The Spanish translator has turned the hearty blunt Jack Junk (as he appears on our stage) into an old forlorn sailor, who looked like Robinson Crusoe on the desert island. After the play a volero was danced with considerable spirit, succeeded by a song badly performed; and the amusements were finished by a stupid farce, in which the humour consisted in a servant who conceals himself behind a side-scene, from which he continually looks out, and makes remarks upon what is said on the stage. At ten o'clock the whole performance was over. This theatre has been built about ten years: it is large enough; but it is intended to erect a new one in a more handsome and convenient style.

CHAP. IV.

Valencia.—Its Buildings.—Convent of San Francesco.—Cathedral.—Archbishop.—View from the Tower.—Religious Concert.—Corpus-Christi Day.—Processions at Valencia and Madrid.

June 8th.

We walked through several antique and curious streets to the Plaza de San Francesco, which is a sort of market for job-coachmen and mule-masters. After surveying their carriages, and hearing their offers, we visited the convent of St. Francis. The church is dark and ugly: the cloister, however, amply rewarded our trouble. It is plain, but noble in its proportions and extent; and the enclosure is full of luxuriant oranges and palms, which cast a delightful shade. The walls are painted better than usual, with the life and miracles of St. Francis:—they are beyond all wonder!—"things unattempted yet *by land* or *sea*." Over the door of the cells, which open into an internal passage, are inscriptions signifying the different offices of the friars; and, at the same time, displaying their taste in poetical composition. I remember one of them—

"Hic moderator adest conventi pervigil hujus!"

The cathedral is a large edifice; the tower, lantern, and gates of which are in a good Gothic style. The body of the church has been rebuilt in the Italian taste: it is neat and not unpleasing as to its ornaments; but is only striking from its extent. A very venerable choir fills the greater part of the church; and the altar is of solid silver. The archbishop's palace is perhaps the best house in the city, though it is built of plaister white-washed. The present prelate Campani, is of Italian origin, though a Spaniard by birth: he is seventy-two years of age, but looks younger. In his youth he was a Franciscan friar, from whence he rose to be general of the order, and archbishop of Valencia. His annual revenue is about three hundred thousand dollars, arising from lands; and he has three villas in the neighbourhood of the city, in one of which he resides nearly half the year, coming here only on festivals and days of ceremony; his whole residence in his palace at Valencia is perhaps for three months, and he generally spends about four with the court at Madrid. His establishment comprises above forty servants. An arch is thrown from his palace across the street to the cathedral, so that he comes to church without either carriage or procession. He has the character of great austerity; and his looks accord with his character.

The custom-house is a common-place building, but is much admired here; nor is it to be wondered that at Valencia, where the houses are so eccentric, a piece of regularity should be an object of admiration.

We ascended the tower of the cathedral, and from thence enjoyed a noble prospect of the surrounding country, and the sea at half a league's distance. No view can be richer than this, the fields exhibiting alternate carpets of the finest verdure and the brightest yellow, interspersed with groves of olives, figs, and palms; towns, villages, and scattered houses: but from this spot, which is near the middle of the city, the country is at too great a distance to observe all the niceties of the planting, training, and irrigating the land; which makes me prefer the view from the hermitage of Saguntum, where a scene or rather map of fertility is closely submitted to the eye, and where it is less distracted by the mixture of villages and houses.

The convent of St. Domingo has a dome of bright bronze tiles, which is a new wonder among the strange sights around us. The rest of the building is old and shabby; yet it is impossible not to walk with pleasure in the decayed Gothic cloister, the arches of which are full of mullion work, and the enclosure well shaded with large orange trees.

In the evening we passed the gate of Serranos, by which we had entered yesterday, to enjoy again the prospect which had so much surprised us. Valencia is really a *foreign* city, and one of another century. Standing on the side of the suburbs, and seeing the four dark bridges, the long line of low fortification, the heavy gate-house, the rude towers and palm trees rising above the walls, we either entirely forget Europe, or that we exist in 1803. The sun-set was magnificent to-night. We walked by the bank of the Guadalaviar to the Alameda, which is quite an eastern prospect, exhibiting two alleys of embowering trees, surrounded by numerous plantations of palms. Here we observed about a dozen carriages driven slowly up and down, of all fashions except the English. The Plaza de Catedral presented a curious spectacle in the evening a concert being performed there in honour of to-morrow's festival of Corpus-Christi. On this occasion the whole square was covered with awnings, and brilliantly illuminated: on one side of it a number of triumphal cars, carrying images of saints, were arranged in a line, and I could not but observe that the Virgin had two candles burning before her, while the chariot which carried the Deity was totally in the dark. A band was stationed in these machines, and another in the balcony of the town-hall, playing alter-

nately to a considerable concourse of people. The scene was very novel and extraordinary; but it reminded me rather of a tea-garden frolic, than of a religious celebration.

June 9. Corpus-Christi day.—We were awakened this morning by a violent ringing of bells; and upon our leaving the inn, we found the streets thronged with people of all ranks in their gala clothes, and many in masquerade dresses. The peasants were as picturesque as possible, in their broad-brimmed hats with gold tassels, white shirt, kelt, and sandals, and their jackets with long ribands instead of buttons, hanging carelessly over their shoulders; all who could afford it had silk cloaks, this being the established day for putting on summer apparel. The higher ranks were full dressed, with bags and swords, and mixed with the crowds which moved every where without noise or confusion.

As we proceeded to the cathedral, we were astonished to find a number of gigantic and ridiculous figures of men and women, Moors and Egyptians, set out directly opposite to the triumphal saints; and we were still more surprized to hear that they were to be carried in the same procession this evening. The church was filled with people, the sacrament exposed on the altar, the canons in the choir, habited in purple soutans and hoods, were singing to a noble or-

gan, assisted by a powerful band of other instruments. The archbishop presided, and wore over his purple the blue and white riband of the royal order of Carlos III., which the king put on with his own hand when the court was at Valencia last year. The morning passed in observing simular acts of festivity and devotion in other places; and at four o'clock in the evening, we took possession of a window near the cathedral to witness the solemn procession of the Corpus-Christi, which, upon the whole, was the grandest Roman-catholic exhibition I have ever seen. All the streets were crowded; and the windows of the archbishop's palace, situated opposite to us, were decorated with draperies of crimson damask. Small processions kept moving to the cathedral, carrying the images of the different parish churches and convents to the general rendezvous. Every house had its saints new dressed and placed in conspicuous situations; we saw a considerable number, besides several relics, in that in which we were stationed. The soldiers with difficulty made a passage through the crowd for the triumphal cars, each drawn by four fine mules, and each containing at least ten persons. These machines are ugly, resembling boats with wheels; and their representations are badly executed, and shamefully disgusting. They are so unmanageable, that this day of

festivity has never passed without an accident; a circumstance which has induced the archbishop to attempt the omission of them, as well as of the ludicrous scene which I shall afterwards describe; but the people are headstrong in retaining their favourite part of the fete.

The first machine contains a representation of the Trinity, and of Adam and Eve expelled from Paradise; between these effiges a set of boys dance with hoops and bells. The second has the Virgin; the third Faith; the fourth St. Vincent, by whose interposition Valencia is supposed to have been delivered from the Moors; the fifth St. Michael; and the sixth the Devil. On the stages or platforms of the five former are, as I have mentioned, groupes of dancing boys; but his satanic majesty has a different accompaniment. On his stage the seven mortal sins are represented by masks, the foremost among whom is Fornication dancing to a fiddle, and exhibiting every sort of indecency. These puppet-shews proceeded in full gallop towards the cathedral; and we soon received the melancholy intelligence that one of them had rushed by a person who was standing against a wall, and had absolutely torn his bowels out.

About five o'clock a cart was brought through the streets filled with orange leaves, which were scattered in the path of the pro-

cession; and at the end of another half hour the pageant began to shew itself before our window. It had made the tour of the whole city, and was now on its return to the cathedral. It appeared nearly in the following ORDER: Gigantic figures of gentlemen, ladies, Moors, and Egyptians, preceded by *outre* characters with enormous heads. Saints from the parish churches dressed in tawdry clothes, and attended by the priests and chief inhabitants in full dress, together with dancing boys and music. Scripture characters: Moses with the law; Aaron in pontifical robes, with the budding rod; David with his harp; Sampson with Goliah's head; Joshua with the sun in his hand; Abraham with Isaac bearing the faggots; Noah carrying the dove; and Balaam on his ass. Then followed the convents of the city: the monks of the Holy Trinity (in white soutans, with black robes and hoods marked with blue crosses;) the Capuchins (brown;) Carmelites (brown with white cloaks;) Benedictines, or black monks; friars of St. Francis of Paolo (black;) Franciscans (some in grey, others in blue;) Mercenarian friars (white with small red crosses;) black canons of St. Augustin; Dominicans (white with black cloaks,) &c. all carrying their saints and candles, and chanted as they walked. Priests: the four evangelists in masquerade; they passed so

quickly that we had only time to observe St. Luke with a bull's head. Priests again: three large gilt eagles walking; priests and canons of the cathedral carrying solid silver statues of saints; noblemen and gentlemen in full dress; the Host (or Corpus Christi) in a high Gothic frame work of gold, under a rich canopy, surrounded by a blaze of candles; the four senior canons of the cathedral; the mitre on a crimson cushion; the archbishop walking bare headed, with his crosier in his hand; gentlemen of the archbishop carrying his red velvet chair of state; nobles of the city; the governor and general with candles. The procession concluded with a detachment of soldiers. On the entrance of the host into the church there was a discharge of artillery.

We had an advantage in its being evening before the procession passed; which, as all the monks, &c. carried candles, considerably increased the effect. The moment when the silver images went by, and the machine containing the host turned the corner of the street, and was fully opposed to us with the reflection of so many lights, it presented a splendid spectacle.

As soon as this pageant (which lasted three hours) had closed, we hastened to the cathedral. The crowd and pressure were dreadful; but the sight was grand beyond description. This large building was light-

ed up in the most fanciful and richest manner; and the Gothic lantern had a particularly beautiful effect, and the high altar entirely silver, blazed with innumerable candles. A loud and noisy chorus of rejoicing was singing as I entered, accompanied by organs, fiddles, &c. and when this confusion of tongues and sounds had finished, the archbishop ate the object of adoration, the Corpus Christi, having previously elevated it before the people. He was surrounded by tapers, incense, and priests in glittering robes, and seemed actually enveloped in a flood of light. He then assumed his mitre, gave the benediction, and the piece concluded, the most pompous that I have ever seen.

A lively traveller, speaking of these religious processions in Madrid, says: The religious processions are managed here with great magnificence, and may indeed be termed one of the principal amusements of the people. Sometimes it is the relic of a martyr, sometimes of a female saint, and even of an apostle, or a primitive father of the church. The invaluable skull, or arm, or finger is carried through the streets encased in gold, and covered with a canopy, and the people throw themselves on their knees as it approaches them. But great is the joy when the entire body of a saint, or a whole bag of holy bones is the subject of the piece. Notice is publicly given of the streets through

which the procession is to pass, and the inhabitants hang over their balconies rich carpets and velvet curtains, at the same time that they are crowded with women dressed in their finest clothes. First marches a band of music playing solemn tunes; then choristers who chant anthems; and they are followed by a long double row of monks, with lighted tapers, and generally clothed in white. At length appears the holy relic, carried by six or eight sturdy priests, on a shrine of massy silver, and shaded from the night air by a rich canopy of silk. A priest precedes it, swinging a silver censer, which throws out clouds of perfume, and walking backwards, that he may not seem to shew any disrespect to the sacred bones. A company of soldiers with fixed bayonets closes the procession; and happy are they who are chosen for this service, not only on account of the holiness of the office, but also because they are paid a quarter of a dollar each. A vast crowd of both sexes, and of every age and condition, follow the whole with heads uncovered. I saw the relics of Santa Barbara thus carried and thus attended. It was on the very same day and hour some thousand years ago, *as every body well knows*, that she was carried up into heaven, being a particular favourite of the Holy Virgin. Fortunately she left behind her all her clothes, even to the shoes on her feet, and the jewels in her

hair, and which it need not be doubted have ever since been scrupulously preserved.—The place of the body was supplied by the image of a handsome young woman, richly dressed, reposing on a couch of silver, and her head encircled with golden rays; but I was astonished to find that female dress had undergone so little variation in Spain for these last thousand years. Santa Barbara might have gone to court without being stared at, and even her shoes, which were of red morocco leather, I should have imagined had been made only a few days before, had not two long rows of tapers, a band of soldiers, and a kneeling multitude, sufficiently proved that they could not be less than a millenium old. A church had been previously illuminated, and prepared for her reception, and rockets were fired in constant succession, until she was safely lodged before the grand altar. Here she lay in state, until at least one fourth of the population of Madrid had passed in review through the church, and paid their devotions at her shrine. I held up a little girl in my arms, that she might see over the heads of the crowd, and during this time some pious Spaniard took an opportunity of picking my pocket, under the very nose of Santa Barbara. This was the price I paid for beholding the mummeries played off before this great wooden doll. I was hardly less fortunate on another occa-

sion. Returning home one evening, I noticed a crowd at the corner of a street listening to a friar, who was haranguing them from under the pent-house of a door: full of curiosity, I mingled with the rest, and heard a serious discourse, solemnly delivered. Towards the close of his harangue, however, he tapped on the door behind him; a small wicket in it was opened, and a crucifix and lighted taper were handed out: these he held up with vehemence, and gestures, and exclamations, and in an instant down came all present on their knees, except myself, who remained standing for a few moments, surprized by the unexpectedness of the manœuvre. A violent tug on the coat, however, was a sufficient hint, and I was obliged to kneel in the dirt among the rest. But after this I took great care to avoid all such pious crowds.

We have been well amused at Valencia; for, independent of the splendid folly of its festival, it is a town full of the traces of antiquity and peculiarity. It is different from any place which I have seen before or since; and, though no where magnificent, it is everywhere curious and interesting.

CHAP. V.

Route to Madrid.—Almanzor.—A new Venta.—Desert country.—Banditti.—La Mancha.—Country church.—Ocana.—Aranjuez.—Approach to Madrid.

June 16th.

We had made an arrangement yesterday in the Plaza de San Francesco to be conveyed (being four persons in number) in a coach with six mules and two drivers to Madrid in seven days, stopping at Aranjuez, for which we were to pay thirty-eight doubloons. This morning at six o'clock we commenced our journey, and passed forward on an excellent road, with high league-stones, through a noble avenue. The rich plain attended us about ten miles, and our coach formed a delightful contrast to the exposed springless volantes in which we had lately travelled. We went through many towns and villages; and at the posada of Montartal, five leagues and a half from Valencia, we staid from twelve to three o'clock; but in spite of the bounty of nature which surrounded it, we could only obtain a few eggs and some bad bread and wine. After dinner we took a short survey of the country, which was cultivated, though

without trees. Many fields were flooded and planted with rice. During the day the weather was dreadfully hot. In the evening we saw at a distance the finely situated town of San Felippe, with the castle above it, built on two pinnacles of rock, with communicating works and walls ranging down the side of it. About eight o'clock we arrived at a neat venta (del Conde) standing by the road, with a village near it; but notwithstanding its promising appearance, it could not furnish us with milk for our tea; nor could we obtain any thing to take with us from the village. We have become, however, pretty well accustomed to such disappointments in these "fine climates, and gardens of the earth." Our day's journey has been nine leagues, about thirty-six English miles.

11th. We set out this morning at a little after four o'clock. The road was admirable, but the country relapsed into an absolute desert. At first we had rough groves of olives and carobs between the road and the range of hills on each side; now and then we saw a field of shabby corn, and even a rich vale or two; we passed no villages, nor scarcely any habitations. After dining at an indifferent venta (de Puento) we rested from eleven to two o'clock, having accomplished five leagues and a half; the house only afforded bad wine and bread,

bad water, and a few eggs. In the evening we entered the kingdom of Murcia, which, in the part through which we journeyed, presents an unvarying scene of desert hills and rocks, covered with rosemary and furze. I never surveyed so lamentable a prospect; the plain of Almanzor is hardly an exception to this picture: it is vast, surrounded by barren hills, here and there shewing a poor crop of corn, but for the most part feeding flocks of sheep and goats. The town consists of a small collection of brown plaister houses, with a little castle situated on a knoll of rock, which in a curious manner suddenly juts out from the plain. Near this stands an obelisk to commemorate the battle fought here; which affords but a mean display of generosity on the part of the monarch, who owed his throne to the event it records.

We continued to traverse this bleak country till eight o'clock, when we arrived at a neat new venta, improperly enough called de la Vega. As this is a fair specimen of those which have been lately erected, I shall be particular in describing it. The lower story is one room, with a large arch on each side, so that carriages can drive through it: the room on one side of the thoroughfare serves as a kitchen, and on the other as a coach-house. Above stairs is a long passage with a chimney at the end, and three

apartments on each side, each with two beds in alcoves or recesses, and with wooden shutters instead of glass in the windows; the stable is in a yard behind. These houses are sufficiently comfortable in every respect except as to provisions, and are a great improvement on the old ventas and posadas of which we have had so often reason to complain.

June 12th. Sunday. Mass was celebrated this morning at four, in a little chapel in the venta, by a friar who had arrived the evening before for that purpose. The muleteers were ready about half an hour afterwards. The same dreary prospect which first broke upon us yesterday, continued all to-day, varying a little now and then, but always threatening famine or robbers. As we proceeded, groves of cork-trees became more frequent; and we discovered from a little eminence that we should soon be enveloped in a considerable wood. From this spot we could see the road pursuing its strait direction for many leagues; but here we deviated from it, and traversed the wood towards the venta, where we were to rest during the middle of the day. We could observe by two volantes joining our caravan, and some other circumstances, that this was a dangerous pass: indeed it is admirably adapted for the depredations of banditti on horseback; the screens of underwood which

mingle with the cork-trees are sufficient to conceal them, and at the same time they in general grow in such distinct thickets as to leave a passage between them, among the intricate windings of thousands of which, spread over a vast surface of country, a flying band of robbers might almost defy pursuit. About twelve o'clock we came to a venta in the thickest part of the wood: it is called Rincon ó Pozo de la Pena, and is six leagues from the venta de la Vega. It afforded rice, salt fish, and some wine, which was almost too bad to drink. The inhabitants of this remote spot were clad in their Sunday apparel: and the hair of the women was ornamented with large combs of basket work. We set out again at three. The wood here has a mixture of pines, and breaks out into rocks and defiles for a few miles. Upon leaving these, we entered on vast and dreary plains, affording nothing but a scanty pasturage to the flocks of sheep and goats that range over them. At half past seven we arrived at Albacete, a considerable town with a manufactory of knives, stilettos, and other articles of cutlery. The posada was unfortunately undergoing a repair, so that we were forced to put up with a wretched bedroom. We were able, however, to procure a sufficient supply of provisions. The white bread and oranges were remarkably good.

13th. The carriage was ready at a quarter before four this morning, the muleteers being determined to arrive at La Roda in time for mass, as it was St. Anthony's day. The master of the posada told the servant that we were the first Englishmen he had seen for fourteen years. We left Albacete by an avenue of mulberries, and entered on a flat unproductive country. A few leagues further we met a strong detachment of cavalry patroling the road, in consequence of a daring robbery which had just been committed on a nobleman who was bringing his bride to court from Barcelona: he had a numerous retinue; the banditti were twelve in number, and completely armed. Soon after passing Ginette, we found ourselves in the celebrated province of La Mancha: the country before us continuing as flat and dreary as before. The mode of driving practised by our muleteers is very remarkable: one of them holds a short whip and the reins, which are merely attached to the pair of mules which are next the carriage; the other sits by him with his lap full of stones, which, when he wishes them to trot, he very expertly pelts at the heads of the leaders; and in case they seem inclined to quit the road on account of such violent treatment, he is ready to jump down to prevent an accident.

We entered La Roda a little after ten o'clock by an avenue. It is a poor desert town like the rest; the posada, however, is new and clean. During our stay here I visited the church; a modern fabric, though in some parts the traces of ancient clustered pillars may be discovered: over the entrance is written on a board: "*El YIImo. Don Filipe Solano Dignissimo Obispo di Cuenca, Anno* 1792;" and, on another near it, as far as I could make it out, the name of the Cura, or perhaps dean of the church. It has a choir for a considerable number of priests, with an organ over it at the west end; the nave is spacious, and has two side-aisles. At the eastern extremity is a heavy gilt altar-piece; there are also several other altars at the sides, and against the pillars, all rudely ornamented. One of the chapels has a picture of the "Adoration of the Magi," of some merit: a vast many banners and other machinery, the pomp, no doubt, of the Corpus-Christi procession, were lying about in different parts of the church. We dined well to-day on the provisions furnished by Albacete; but the wine of La Roda could hardly be made palatable, even with the addition of sugar and lemon. Just as we were setting out, a lady of distinction arrived in an antique coach, with attendants, and four horse-guards. The road continued excellent; and the prospect the same

desert, flat expanse; though towards evening it was diversified by a large wood of pineasters. In this country it is impossible to distinguish friends from foes, as all travellers go well armed. We met just here half a dozen horsemen, many of whom had swords and pistols; but they passed us quietly, and were probably travellers like ourselves, as we afterwards saw peasants riding on asses, armed in the same way. Venta de Pinaz, where we slept, has been lately built by the lord of the manor: is the largest on the road; and notwithstanding the noble donna had sent forward to bespeak the best rooms, our accommodations were very comfortable.

14th. The road to-day was, as usual, excellent; and the country presented the same level and desert appearance, except that a little cultivation is attempted around the towns, which are built of mud and plaister. The only interesting objects with which we have met in de Mancha, are its windmills, rendered famous by the exploits of Don Quixote. We had seen none before we entered this province; but here scarcely a village is to be seen without a group of them; they are built of stone, with thatched tops.

We rested during the heat of the day at Pedronoso, whose posada only afforded some bread and a little milk; in the neighbourhood of this town a jar manufactory is car-

ried on. In the evening we passed La Motta della Cuervo, another considerable mud-town, with about a dozen windmills, and the most classical we have met with, since from the eminence on which they stand, the spire of El Toboso is plainly distinguished. At eight o'clock we stopped at the dirty posada of Puintamar, where we obtained some pigeons for supper; but the beds were horrible. Upon carrying the lamp near them, we saw the bugs coursing each other over the dirty sheets, in most terrific squadrons! and upon lifting up our eyes to the wall near the bed's-head, we beheld all the little specks upon its surface, which at first sight seemed splashes of dirt, were animated,—all bugs! We immediately called for the master of the house; but as he did not seem to understand the cause of our complaint, and there was no remedy, we were obliged to take ourselves to the carriage for the night.

June 15th. To-day we traversed the same flat and dreary country as I have so often described; the weather as hot as possible. We slept for two hours, and dined at a bad posada in Billatobas, another wretched mud-town, and at eight in the evening reached Ocana, after a very fatiguing journey.

Ocana is a city, and presents a view of many low towers and little domes. The inn is almost the dirtiest we have seen. Some pigeons were sent up to us for supper swim-

ming in an execrable black broth: and to show how far such inconveniencies are from being softened by civility, I must mention, that the landlady, hearing that we had ordered the beds, as a precaution both against the heat and bugs, to be removed into the middle of the room, sent us word that, if her accommodations did not suit us, we might turn out into the street. We were too much tired to quarrel, and quietly retired under a threatening quilt and patched sheets, at half past ten o'clock.

June 16th. We rose with alacrity to-day, which was to shew us Aranjuez and Madrid; and were in the carriage before three o'clock. We proceeded among dreary and bare hills for the space of two leagues: when at length the paradise of Spain broke upon our view. The real beauty of the place, and the contrast of verdure and civilization, to the desolate scenes which we had lately passed, made us think it the most delightful spot we had ever seen. Before us was a vale full of trees, with domes and spires rising above them; a range of well-built white houses with a large church, stood on the right. Traffic and bustle were alive on all sides; in short, we seemed to rise into life again. Having left our carriage at the inn, we hastened to review the wonders of the place. It was easy to discover that the court was here, from the number of coaches

and six, officers and servants, who continually passed us.

The town consists of small low houses, neatly and regularly built. The royal palace stands on the banks of the Tagus; the ambassadors and other persons of the court reside in several large houses near the prince's garden. Passing an arch, we came into a sort of crescent, with a chapel in the centre, the whole of which is constructed of plaister painted. The palace is of considerable extent; it has two domes, but no other attempt at embellishment; indeed, its appearance is neither grand nor pleasing. The windows are casements, and the chief front is situated opposite the dullest part of the wood. With respect to the celebrated garden of the island, it is a spot where Nature has blotted out the original design, and made one of the most delightful retreats in the world. A person might walk a long time among the over-arching bowers of its ancient elms, without discovering that in fact all the walks are radii, and the fountains which occasionally fall in his way are the centres where they meet;——such was originally the taste in which the garden was laid out: but the elms have vindicated their own rights, and those of the place; they have bent their trunks in every direction; and thrust their arms in bold irregularity across the stiff alleys and prim compartments which the designer had

planned: at this time if the fountains were removed, nothing would be wanting to the beauty of the scene. The walks of the colleges at Cambridge, much thickened and extended, and the glades filled with flowers; will give an adequate idea of the effect of this most ancient and most beautiful garden of Aranjuez.

Upon quitting these magnificent shades, we found ourselves on the banks of the Tagus, whose stream was somewhat narrower than we had expected: the princesses' apartments look this way; those of the King and Queen face the open plaza and the bridge; an aspect which cannot be admired: directly under their windows is a small garden of orange trees which being cut into round shapes, and powdered by the dust from the roads, seem like so many wigs in a barber's shop. Nor is the distant prospect more delightful; the shore of the river near the bridge is entirely covered with wood sawn out ready for sale; it comes from the mountains of Cuenca; and after having been floated down the Tagus, is sold by the King on this wharf. This is a very expensive commodity in Castile.

We now arrived at the gate of the garden of the Prince of Asturias, which opens into a noble avenue, called the Calle de la Reyna. Several officers were standing here, from whom we requested permission to enter;

one of them said, that we were at perfect liberty to see the garden after the King had passed, who was going according to his custom, to breakfast with the prince in a pleasure-house in the garden. After waiting about a quarter of an hour, his majesty drove by us in an old-fashioned crimson phaeton, with two ponies, and three servants behind; he was followed by an attendant on horseback, carrying his gun, and about a dozen other persons of all descriptions: he bowed as he passed us, and proceeded down the avenue to breakfast. The prince's garden is made in an ambiguous taste, half French and half English: the walks are straight and ornamented with fountains; but the compartments are planted irregularly, and often laid out in grass, with flowers in basket frames, according to the English plan. The whole is certainly very pretty; but as it is a modern work, and the trees are young, it can by no means vie with the grandeur of the garden of the island: it is remarkable that every single tree has a separate pipe, which by conveying to its roots the waters of the Tagus, supplies the want of rain, which makes the country around so barren. We were surprised to find no foreign trees here, and very few oranges: in one part we were led to the banks of the river where batteries are erected, and two large models of a frigate and a corvette are afloat; in an-

other we were shewn in a most delightful situation a piece of water, filled with gold fish, in the middle of which was an island, containing a correct and beautiful imitation of a Chinese tea-house: but notwithstanding my daily experience of bad taste, I was astonished to see in this striking and peculiar prospect, the late addition of a large and expensive Ægyptian temple! We were not permitted to approach the prince's pleasure house, but we were assured we had seen all that was remarkable. In one of the avenues near the gate a green silk net was suspended, in case the King, after breakfast, should meditate a war upon the finches. After a stay of three hours, we returned to our carriage and departed. The Spaniard to whom I spoke at the garden gate, called Aranjuez the Richmond of Spain. It is a beautiful spot, more delightful in Spain than Richmond is in England; but considering them abstractedly, the fine broad oaks feathering to the ground, and the wide stream of the Thames, incline me to decide in favour of the superior beauty of the latter. We passed the Tagus, and along an avenue of trees, through what is called the Alameda del Rey, which is intersected by several other avenues; but as we proceeded, trees became more scarce, and the ground more burnt up. After crossing a long stone bridge, we ascended a hill, and left trees and

cultivation far behind; the whole prospect is dreary and desert; and is in every respect a miserable contrast to the approaches both to London and Paris; we did not indeed expect the picture of private wealth and happiness which the former presents; but we were prepared for some of the monarchical grandeur of the latter: in this, however, we were entirely disappointed; for though the road is fine, the avenues want width and majesty; and upon quitting these, on the very verge of the metropolis, to relapse into a perfect desert, is intolerable. We dined at a posada where the provisions were plenty, but the charge exorbitant. From this it was four leagues to Madrid; the road perfectly direct, and its sides garnished by some miserable elms. There are no towns, a little traffic, and some cultivated fields; but it is almost impossible to conceive that we are close to a metropolis: at length it makes its appearance. Madrid! a small black town, standing quite distinct, in the midst of an arid plain: no suburbs or straggling houses. Its outline is diversified by a number of little domes and spires; but there is nothing pre-eminent or grand; the perspective is closed by the snow-capt mountains of Guadarama.

The Prince of the Peace going to the city in great haste passed us on the road, with half a dozen horse-guards, and three ser-

vants behind his carriage. The oppressive heat of the day was beyond expression; at length we crossed the Manzanares at a ford, and entered the verdant outworks of the Prado of Madrid; these are extended to the water side; and among them were many parties walking, their carriages waiting at a distance. We advanced under a shady avenue to the gate of Antocha, where our pockets were called upon for a contribution by the custom house; and we passed within the walls of the metropolis, of which the grandeur of the Prado, and the width and lighting of the Calle de Alcala gave us higher expectations than were afterwards realized; indeed these are by far the finest parts of Madrid. The prospect, however, of the rooms and beds of the Cruz de Malta was in our present circumstances infinitely more gratifying.

CHAP. VI.

Madrid.—Heat.—Royal Armory.—Plaza Mayor.—Cabinet of Natural History.—The Younger Foster.—Theatre.—Prince of Peace.—Buen-Retiro.—The Prado and striking spectacles there.—New Palace.—Bull-fight.—Comedy of Lope de Vega.—General view of the Metropolis.

June 17th. The hot weather has come in this year with the solana or African wind, which has blown for the last day or two. The thermometer at two o'clock was at 92° in our rooms and in the shade out of doors at 87°. In the evening we endeavoured to walk on the Prado, but though the sun was set, the air which breathed in our faces was so impregnated with heat, as to cause an oppression and relaxation that repressed almost every feeling of curiosity.

June 18th. We were disappointed to-day in not being able to see the New Palace; as for the purpose of keeping it perfectly cool for the royal family, who will soon arrive, the shutters are only open from five till seven in the morning: but we were more fortunate at the Real Armeria, which is contained in an old building near it. This greatly gratified us; and began to reconcile us to Madrid. The room, which is spacious, is

hung round with armour and arms, and a row of horsemen, cased in steel, line the middle. We found ourselves at once among the worthies of Spain. Charles V. Philip II. Ferdinand and Isabella, Gonzalvo of Cordova, King Chico of Grenada, Hernando Cortes, and a long succession, which will be better specified in the following DESCRIPTIVE LIST:

The carriage of the mother of Charles V. the first made in Spain:—it is of a square shape, carved over, and has open windows all round. The chair of Charles V:—The bed and travelling cart of Charles V; a machine something between a cradle and a tilted cart. The armour of Ferdinand the catholic, worn at the conquest of Grenada; it is ornamented with alternate stripes of bright steel and flowered gilding. Three suits of armour of Queen Isabella, like men's armour, of bright steel, with a little gilding. Steel armour with gilt nails, of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster and king of Castile; the mark of a ball is indented in the breast-plate. A rich suit of unpolished armour, embossed with figures and ornaments, made at Pamplona, and given by Sebastian of Portugal to Philip II.—The armour of Charles V. in which he retired to St. Just. The virgin is engraved on the breast-plate; the helmet has the representation of hair, beard, mouth, and ears. It is perforated for

the eyes; and the hair and the beard are gilt. Large Moorish targets of leather, with inscriptions.—The armour of the great captain, Gonzalvo of Cordova, which is like, but richer than, that of Ferdinand the catholic. It is embossed all over, and has alternate stripes of gilt and bright steel.—Turkish presents, guns, pistols, &c. from Constantinople; some of the barrels were made at Barcelona; the mountain is very curious. Swords of Charles V. of Gonzalvo, and of Francis I. The latter was worn at the battle of Pavia, when Francis was taken prisoner; a small dagger is attached to the sheath; it has a cross handle, with the inscription, "in brachio suo."—A Moorish collar, for torturing Christians, taken by Montemar.—Maces for wrenching off armour.—Lances. Arrows curiously barbed. A breast-plate, with an embossed representation of the battle of St. Quintin; made for Philip II. at Pamplona: it it well executed. A shield sent by the Pope to Don John of Austria; it bears a crucifix; the field on each side of which has the impression of a bullet.—Several coats of mail of bright steel, for females of the court of Philip II. each with a short steel petticoat.—A rich suit of armour, worn by Philip III. made at Pamplona.—A long gun, with the earliest kind of lock, and the handle inlaid with ivory, belonging to Philip II.—Armour of Her-

nando Cortes, of plain steel.—Armour of king Chico* of Grenada, of bright steel; it has more joints than any of the others. The helmet is very large, and curiously fashioned: it is perforated by two small holes for seeing, and above them is a long slip for breathing: on the side a sort of door can be opened for the purpose of speaking; a small shield is attached to the left breast, and a piece of steel projects to rest a spear upon on the right. Another suit of Moorish armour, the helmet like that of Chico.—The ring armour of Charles I. of Naples.—Japanese war dresses, with frightful masks.

HORSE FIGURES.

Alfonso IX. father of St. Ferdinand.—Philip II. as he appeared at the battle of St. Quintin: his sword; the gift of the city of Saragossa.—Charles V. as he entered Tu-

* "The nineteenth king of Grenada was Muley Hasen; others call him Albo Hasen. He had a son named Boaudillin. Many of the nobles being at variance with the father, elected the son for their prince, calling him Chiquito, the boy king. Thus Grenada saw itself under the dominion of two kings." Guer. Civil. chap. ii. After his father's death, Boaudillin, or, as he is commonly called, El Rey Chico, defended the city against king Ferdinand, to whom, in the end, he was obliged to surrender it. El Rey Chico has been generally translated the Little King; but the armour above-mentioned does not favour that interpretation. The meaning seems to be, the younger King, or the boy King, which accords with the Spanish custom of calling the king's sons infants, even after they have obtained the age of manhood.

nis; he carries in his hand a bright steel halbert.—All these figures are in bright steel armour, with high plumes on their heads; the horses richly caparisoned, and more or less armed.—Charles V. as he was crowned emperor of the Romans; on which occasion he assumed the Roman habit and wreath of laurel. His robe is red, edged with ermine.

At the end of the room, in a glass case, with a curtain before him, like our waxen kings in Westminster Abbey, sits Ferdinand the catholic. His shield is hung behind him; the crown on his head; the sceptre and ball in his hands. A board is suspended to assure the faithful that if they will say a pater-noster, and an ave Maria, and pray earnestly for the extirpation of heretics before this reverend image, they shall receive many hundred days of indulgence; for which purpose many of the prelates have subscribed their sums of time. I was sorry to find Lorenzana's name in the list. A velvet cushion is prepared for those who are moved by this holy invitation. The walls of the room are hung all round with armour; and the ceiling with tilting lances, Moorish banners, &c. Some very curious specimens of ancient cannon are to be found in this collection; which, although it is not so large as that at the Tower, must certain-

ly be allowed to be as interesting as any in Europe.

The Plaza Mayor of Madrid, presents a very curious spectacle. It is a square of old brick houses, with areades (or, as we call them, piazzas) below; the houses are full of windows, and each window has a balcony, and a curtain or mat hung out to shade the rooms. The sides of this square are not broken by streets; and, standing in the middle, we seem to look in vain for an egress, which is by a low arch on one side: opposite this is the town-house; an ancient building, but without dignity or effect. They are at present engaged in preparing scaffoldings and seats for the bull-fights, which are to be exhibited here next month, in honour of the marriage of the Prince of Asturias.

In the evening we visited the Gabinete de Historia Natural; which occupies a suite of ten rooms, in a large stone building, in the Calle de Alcala, in which there is also an academy of arts.* It is a collection of great interest, as it contains from Spanish America and the Manillas, curiosities which cannot be possessed by any other museum in Europe; but it is not so complete as these immense sources of treasure would lead us to expect, nor is the disposition of

* The inscription over the gate is very neat: CAROLVS III. Rex, Naturam et Artem sub uno tecto in publicam utilitatem consociavit, anno MDCCLXXV.

the specimens they have procured so perfect as it ought to be.

The principal foundation of this museum was the valuable collection of minerals, bought by the king from the famous Foster, who for many years had the direction of it. A large sardonyx, of a rich purple and brown colour, with lucid yellow veins, is shewn, before which this enthusiastic collector used frequently to fall on his knees ; but the minerals from America are the principal objects of attention : and the splendor of some specimens is beyond description. Among the other rarities are, immense snakes from Oronooko ;—extraordinary fish ;—curious birds ;—virgin silver and gold ;—specimens of the pottery of the ancient Peruvians, highly curious ; some representations of idols ; rude, but very much in the Egyptian manner, particularly several vessels, on the exterior parts of which are the images of deities, exactly like the Canopus pots of Egypt.—Models of pagodas ; Chinese boats, &c. extremely beautiful ;—a Japanese drum, the most sonorous I ever heard.—Peruvian cloth.—Pictures of the intermarriages of the Spaniards and Indians, with the offspring, to mark the gradations of colour.—Moorish ornaments, gold rings, necklaces, &c. dug up at Grenada.—Chinese and Japanese dresses and models. The valuable bequest of Louis XIV. to Philip V. is preserved in

this museum, which consists of a number of precious stones and antique cameos, rich and beautiful to the last degree, made up into vases and ornaments in the most tawdry and detestable French taste.

The spar of the Asturias is like that of Derbyshire : superb rubies, opals, and emeralds are to be found in this collection ; but the officer, while he shewed us the models of the Great Mogul and other famous diamonds in crystal, complained that the king was far from liberal in this particular, and that he had only given two small specimens to the museum.

The most remarkable and interesting object in this cabinet, is the skeleton of the non-descript animal which was discovered some years ago, buried about forty feet in a mountain near Buenos Ayres. The length from its rump to its nose is about thirteen feet, its height a little more than six. The breadth and size of its body are very astonishing ; and the collar and blade-bone are not unlike those of the human species. The legs are uncommonly stout, particularly those behind, which are of such prodigious and wonderful strength, that they must have been designed to support upon occasion the whole body of the animal reared up ; an idea which is rendered more probable from the length of the claw and the solid piece of bone

which projects behind, forming a basis to the leg.

Whether it was a carnivorous animal or not, is still, and will probably always remain, in great doubt. The enormous claws are in favour of such a conclusion, but the evidence of the mouth is against it, which is merely furnished with common grinders, without fangs, or any traces of them, though that part of the skeleton is entirely perfect: it is not wide. The neck is long enough to touch the ground. A skeleton of an elephant is placed in the adjoining room for the sake of comparison; there is little similarity between them; this being, it is evident, of the cat kind, and appears to have been a sort of gigantic tyger. The breadth of the animal, and the solidity of its bones, are wonderfully striking. This museum may be considered at present in its infancy, and it is about to receive a vast addition, and undergo a complete renovation, from the hands of the younger Foster, (the son of the celebrated collector) who has been travelling, by order of the king, for the last eleven years in South America, where he has collected a vast number of new and rare specimens, which are all arrived, and deposited for the present in the palace of Buen-Retiro. Foster himself is on his return to take the direction of the institution, which is to be removed, as soon as he comes, to

a new building, which has been erected for the purpose, near the botanic garden, a large structure; which affords a new instance of the wretched taste in architecture prevalent at Madrid. The museum, after receiving Foster's additional specimens, and directed by his intelligence, will become a primary object of attention among the mineralogists of Europe. At eight o'clock we attended El Teatro de los Canos de Peral, the first of the two theatres of Madrid: externally it presents a shew of poverty perfectly surprising; its brick front, with three little doors, and a few broken windows, seems that of an house given up to decay. The interior is ornamented in an ugly and grotesque manner; the predominant colour is dirty brown, on which lozenges are painted at intervals, containing heads, not after the antique, but in the style of the fashionable dresses for the year in an English pocket-book: it is four stories high, containing seventy-three boxes, which are piled one over the other, without columns or architecture. A gallery with one row of seats, projects before the lower boxes; the *salle* is lighted by five small chandeliers: the stage is about the size, and the house nearly the same width, with Colman's theatre in the Haymarket; but of a different shape and much longer. The audience were very scanty; but we found the band, the performers, and the decorations

very respectable. The entertainment consisted of La Viage in Grecia, translated from the little French opera of Palma. The chief singer is an Italian, but the operas are well performed in Spanish, by the king's order: after this followed a minuet fandango, and afterwards the fandango performed with castanets by a male and female dancer; it is a mixture of dignity and passion which well accords with the Spanish character, and though it approaches to indecency must be allowed, it has considerable grace, and in spirit and effect it cannot be surpassed. The boxes of the grandees are ornamented with curtains of various colours: the royal family never visit any other theatre but that of the bull-fights. The Prince of Peace was in his box to night; towards the close of the performance he was so heated, that a bason of water was brought him, in which he washed his hands. His figure is dignified, not unlike the Prince of Wales, but his countenance is remarkably dull and heavy.

June 19th. The palace of the Buen-Retiro is a low straggling building of plaister, with four towers and spires, surrounding a large court: it has rather the air of a barrack for soldiers than a royal residence. The suites of rooms are numerous, but neither handsome in their furniture or proportions; the walls, for the most part, are covered with indifferent pictures. Luca Gior-

dano has done a great deal in this palace in his easy but expressive style. The anti-chamber, and the principal apartment called El Cason, are painted by him, the former representing the conquest of Grenada, the latter allegorical emblems of the grandeur of the Spanish monarchy. There are also several pictures of Rubens, some extravagant, some few hunting-pieces well done: a painting or two by Peter Boert, highly pleasing; a fool, by Velasquez, admirable! The rest of the collection, which is immense, consists of stiff, ancient, and insipid modern works; among the former, the portraits of Ferdinand and his queen are to be remarked on account of the likeness. One of the halls contains a number of wooden models of Cadiz, Figueras, Gibraltar, Vera Cruz, &c. which are not generally shewn to foreigners; here too is the famous attack on Gibraltar in model.

The theatre is of a considerable size, and the stage well placed; but the chief ornaments, which are balustrades of brown wood, with glass between them, are in a wretched taste. Italian operas were performed here at a vast expense, in the last reign; but since the fête given on the marriage of the present king, it has never been used.

The Bueno-Retiro, which, though of different materials, resembles in many respects, the old part of Fontainbleau, certainly ranks

below every other royal palace we have seen on the continent. In a small garden adjoining is an equestrian bronze statue* of Philip IV. The poising of the mass is ingenious, as the horse is represented in the act of curveting; and the whole has considerable merit, though not without stiffness. The gardens of the Buen-Retiro are open to the public: they consist of alleys of low trees, maintained with infinite care and waterings; but notwithstanding every possible attention, they are not, nor do they promise to be, luxuriant; they are, however, a delightful resort for the citizens of Madrid. In the neighbourhood of these the royal porcelain manufactory is carried on in a large white building; and near it is the national observatory.

The Prado was crowded this evening with company on foot and in carriages, the latter passing slowly in succession on one side of the broad walk. I have never seen so ma-

* On the girth of the horse is inscribed—"Petrus Tacca f. Florentiæ, anno salutis MDCXXX." Tacca was a pupil of the celebrated John of Bologna; he was in great repute, and enjoyed many favours from the grand Dukes Ferdinando II. and Cosmo II. I saw his tomb at Florence, in the chapel of his master, in the church of the Anunciata. The whole statue, which weighs 18,000 pounds, rests upon the hind legs and the tail: the mode by which this has been accomplished is, by making these perfectly solid, and the other parts hollow. The statue of Peter the Great, executed by Falconet, at Petersburg, is in a similar attitude, and is constructed in the same manner. The inventories of the Retiro rate Tacca's work at 40,000 doubloons, which is a much larger sum than it cost originally.

ny together since I left England. They are of all tastes and fashions: the old Spanish, the open, and the Parisian; some with landscapes painted on the pannels, others awkwardly encumbered with gilt ornaments; all drawn by mules, the postillions dressed in long coats and cocked hats. The dust they create, in spite of previous watering, almost choaks the walking company. The view of this wide Prado, filled with people and carriages, and surrounded by trees and fountains, must certainly be ranked among the fine spectacles of Europe.

The Prado is admirable in all its parts, being a broad walk, adorned with handsome fountains, and divided into avenues by rows of trees; it bounds the whole of one side of the town, being terminated at each end by one of the gates of the city. The streets leading down to it are the broadest and finest in Madrid, and on the opposite side, are the gardens, pleasure-grounds, and palace of the Retiro, worthy of the residence of a prince, although at present only used by the king as a shooting ground during his stay at Madrid. The fountains of the Prado are in general formed after antique models, and the water of one of them is the purest in the whole city, and the only kind of which the present king drinks, water being his sole beverage. One very broad walk adorned with these fountains, is thronged every fine even-

ing with the best company, and on Sundays, the king, queen, and royal family, ride up and down the carriage road, and salute the people constantly as they pass. It is on the Prado that the stranger may study with advantage the dress, the air, and the gait of the Spaniards; for then all pass in review before him, from the prince to the beggar. The nobleman alights from his carriage, and saunters among the throng, seemingly careless about his fine dress, and the ornaments at his button-hole, although nobody glances at them so often as himself; the citizen dresses in the mode general throughout Europe thirty years ago; whilst the lower classes that venture on the Prado, still wear their clothes thrown over the shoulder, and thus preserve the last reliques of an ancient toga. All the men wear large cocked hats, and all smoke cigarrs; for this latter purpose boys run up and down the Prado with a kind of slow torch, which burns without flaming, and serves to light the cigarrs. In opposition to them water carriers, with their porous earthen vases and goblets, vend the cool water of the neighbouring fountains; and the various cries of fire, fire, and fresh water, water, are heard above the buzz of the mingled crowd. But the women principally attract the eyes of the stranger. Their simple and elegant dress, their veils, which serve any purpose but that of concealing

their faces, the freedom of their walk, and their looks attractive, but not immodest, tend to make an Englishman forget for a moment that they are greatly inferior in point of real beauty to the women of his own country.

There is one custom which pleased me much, and which no where produces so striking an effect as on the Prado. Exactly at sunset the bells of the churches and convents give the signal for repeating the evening prayer to the Virgin. In an instant the busy multitude is hushed and arrested, as if by magic. The carriages stop, the women veil their faces with their fans; the men take off their hats, and all breathe out, or are supposed to breathe, a short prayer to the protecting power which has brought them to the close of another day. After a short, a solemn, and not unpleasant, pause, the men bow and put on their hats, the women uncover their faces, the carriages drive on, and the whole crowd is again in motion as before. This is one of the few catholic customs which appears to partake of piety without superstition, (divested of altars, candlesticks, tapers, and images.) I felt no reluctance to uncover my head among the crowd under so noble a canopy as the vault of heaven, where some of the stars already begin to appear. Those around me mutter a petition or a thanksgiving to their favourite saint, or

to the mother of God; but I have only a heretic though heartfelt prayer to offer for those far distant from me, a parent, a brother, a sister, or a friend.

June 20th. We were obliged to rise at a quarter past five this morning to see the New Palace, according to the regulations I have lately mentioned. The exterior is one of those tasteless compositions of windows and pilasters of which the last century was so fertile, and which can only strike from their size, or dazzle by the multitude of their parts: columns and simplicity, the grand characteristics of ancient architecture, have, according to the practice of modern taste, been totally disregarded; nor as the architect by this deviation attained that richness which sometimes imposes on the mind in the absence of classical proportions. This new structure, however, has neatness, uniformity, and extent to recommend it, and is in a commanding situation: in fact, it looks like a palace, and has in consequence an host of admirers.* The building is square, and surrounds a court-yard, into which there

* Madrid in ancient times, before it became the seat of government, contained an Alcazar or Royal Palace; the first foundation attributed to Alonzo VI. was destroyed by an earthquake. A second was erected by Henry II. which was enlarged and embellished by a series of monarchs, particularly Charles V. when he brought his court to Madrid. This curious edifice was reduced to ashes in 1734. It was proposed to rebuild it on a plan which should rival the first

are two approaches; from one of them rises the grand staircase, which is wide and lofty; a very noble work, and only second to that at Caserta,* which is without doubt the finest in Europe. The suite of rooms is very numerous, all handsomely furnished; but the reflection is striking, that after an extensive tour in France and Italy, this is the first royal palace we have found *furnished*. Versailles, Fontainbleau, the Pilazzo Pitti at Florence, the Vatican, Monte Cavallo, Caserta, and Naples, are all plundered and desolate.

The state-apartments are large, well pro-

palaces in Europe. For this purpose, the Abate Felipe Invarra, a Sicilian, who had been employed by the king of Sardinia, at Turin, was engaged to form a model. He was a disciple of Fontana, but he seems to have surpassed his master, since he proposed a number of insulated columns; though it must be confessed that he preferred the composite order. The principal front of his plan extended to 1700 feet; and the chief court was to be 700 by 400. The king, however, (Philip V.) insisted that the new palace should exactly occupy the site of the former; and death prevented Invarra's forming a second design. The business now devolved upon his pupil, Giovanni Baptista Sagueti of Turin, who produced the present fabric, in which, it is said, he kept his master's style in view: but the praise of the stair-case is due to Francisco Sebatini. The palace is built of the white stone of Colmenar; with a basement of granite; the whole arched over, to prevent its being again destroyed by fire. The four fronts are each 470 feet; and the height of the cornice is 100. The court is about 140 feet square.

* Caserta, the principal palace of the king of Naples, is the production of Vanvetelli, an architect of great merit, and the last Italian name in that line which can be mentioned.

portioned, and handsomely decorated: but it contains no vast gallery, and no instance of superior magnificence. The Sala de los Embaxadores, is the finest room of the whole, but it is not particularly striking; indeed the grandeur of this palace entirely consists in the continued suite of handsome and well-furnished apartments. Its principal and most valuable ornaments are its pictures; of which it contains a noble collection. The glasses of St. Ildefonso, and porcelain wares of the Madrid manufactory decorate some of the rooms. Paris clocks, and others made at Madrid, are placed for ornament on some of the chimney-pieces; we did not however fail to observe above a dozen sturdy kitchen-clocks from London, received for use into different apartments. Among the pictures are some excellent Titians; two old men, by Velasquez; Christ betrayed, by Rubens; Silk-spinners and peasants at the vintage, by Velasquez; Charles V. in his old age, in armour, on horseback, by Titian; Mercury and Argus, by Titian; Philip II. by Velasquez, a most admirable and characteristic portrait; two pictures from Saints' histories, by Murillo, well painted, but without dignity, Sketches, by Rubens. Mengs has done a great deal in this palace, pictures, pannels, and ceilings. The Descent from the Cross, is the finest work I have seen of this artist; the Virgin in Tears, and the Dead

Christ could not be better: yet among his paintings here, we have instances of insipidity and stiffness; and his general fault of finishing too highly is almost always discernible. This palace has no gardens, and the view from its windows stretches far over the barren plains of Castile; the few trees which fill the hollow where the scanty Manzanares flows, are the only verdure in the prospect. No wonder that the green retreat of Aranjuez is the daily topic of wonder and admiration.

The Spanish bull-fights are certainly the most extraordinary exhibition in Europe; we were present at one of them this morning. The amphitheatre is just without the Puerta di Alcala; a very mean building for the metropolitan seat of the national amusement. The places were nearly all filled at half past nine, and at ten the corregidor came into his box; upon which the trumpets sounded, and the people rose and shouted; not I believe from affection towards Senor Don Juan di Morales Guzmany Tovar, but from delight that the shew was to begin immediately: after this the mayor of the alguazils, and two of that body, in black dresses, long wigs, Spanish hats and feathers, with a guard of cavalry paraded the arena. Four men in black gowns then came forward, and read a proclamation, enjoining all persons to remain in their seats: upon their going out, the six bulls which

were to be fought this morning were driven across, led on by a cow, with a bell round her neck. The two piccadores now appeared, dressed in leathern gaiters, much padded about the legs, thick leathern breeches, silk jackets covered with spangles and lace, and caps, with nets and tails behind, surmounted by broad-brimmed white hats; each rode a miserable hack, and carried in his hand a long pole, with a goad at the end. As soon as they were prepared, a door was opened and the first bull rushed in. We were soon undeceived as to the prevalent notion, that, from dexterity and other safeguards, the Spanish bull-fight is no longer a service of much danger: in the course of the contest I felt first alarmed for the men; then for the horses, having witnessed the adroitness of the one, and the sufferings of the other: soon the accidents of the men withdrew my pity from the beasts, and latterly, by a natural and dreadful operation of the mind, I began to look without horror on the calamities of both. The manner of the fight is thus:—the bull rushes in, and makes an attack severally upon the piccadores, who repulse him, he being always upon these occasions, wounded in the neck; after a few rencounters he becomes somewhat shy, but at the same time, when he does rush on, he is doubly dangerous. He does not as before turn aside when he feels the goad, but

endeavours to conquer it: he follows up the attack, and frequently succeeds in overthrowing both horse and rider. When this happens, the attendants run up to carry off the latter, and, if possible to draw away the bull (by means of red cloaks) from the horse, which generally receives fatal wounds before he can rise up again. As long as the horse has strength to bear the piccador, he is obliged to ride him. This morning one of these wretched animals was forced to charge with his guts hanging in festoons between his legs! His belly was again ripped open by the bull, and he fell for dead; but the attendants obliged him to rise and crawl out! This seems the cruellest part of the business: for the men almost always escape, but the blood and sufferings of thirteen horses were exhibited in the short space of two hours: four men were hurt; one, who was entirely overturned with his horse upon him, was carried out like a corpse; but the spectators, totally disregarding this melancholy sight, shouted for his companion to renew the attack: another was overset against the partition-boards; a third had his horse and himself so completely tossed over, we thought he must inevitably be killed, but he saved himself by crossing his hands behind his head. The horses are all blinded, and their tameness under their agonies is astonishing. A rider never throws

himself off till the horse is past recovery; he then falls on the opposite side from the bull, so that the horse acts as a sort of fortification to him. The bull, after his first rage and subsequent fury during many rounds, begins to feel weakness, and declines any further attacks on the horsemen; he even retreats before them: upon this a loud shout re-echoes through the theatre, and some of the attendants advance and stick his gored neck full of arrows, which cause him to writhe about in great torment: one this morning nearly overleaped the barriers. When the efforts he makes under these sufferings have considerably spent his strength, the corregidor makes a motion with his hand, and the trumpets sound as a signal to the matador to dispatch him. This is a service of great skill and bravery; for though the bull may have no inclination to attack the horsemen who have goaded and wounded him, his madness prompts him to destroy every one else. The matador advances with a red cloak in one hand and a sword in the other; he enrages the bull with the cloak, which in case of a failure assists his escape; at length getting opposite, the bull rushes forward and the sword pierces his spinal marrow, or what is more common, is buried to the hilt in his neck, upon which he turns aside, at first moaning, but a torrent of blood gushes from his mouth, he staggers round the arena,

and falls; the trumpets sound, three mules ornamented with ribands and flags appear to drag the wretched victim out by the horns, and the horsemen prepare for the attack of a fresh animal.

In the evening the shew began at half past four, and ten bulls were brought forward; but the sport was not reckoned so good as in the morning; only two Andalusian bulls appeared, the rest were Catalans, who, being accustomed to feed in the same pastures as horses, do not like to attack them. Many of these, after entering, stared at the piccadores and kept aloof: to tame them, (as they had not been brought down by bleeding or exercise) before the matador approached, a new expedient was resorted to, most infamously cruel, namely, the covering the darts with sulphur and fire-works; the torments of these were so dreadful, that the animals, whose strength was fresh, raged about terribly, and the assistants were forced to use great agility to get from them. There were several hair-breadth escapes; one of the animals in pursuit of a man leaped the barrier of the arena, which is about eight feet high. Their strength by such efforts being gradually exhausted, they at last yielded to the dagger of the matador. The two Andalusian bulls made up for the others: in the first round a horse was killed, and the piccador was thrown forwards and disabled.

But the second Andalusian was still more furious, and made more tremendous attacks. In one of these he pinned the man and horse against the barriers, got his horns under the horse, and lacerated him dreadfully; in a moment afterwards he lifted him up, and threw the man with such force through one of the apertures (made for the escape of the attendants when pursued by the bull) as to kill him on the spot. He was borne past the box in which we were, with his teeth set, and his side covered with blood; the horse staggered out, spouting a stream of gore from his chest. The remaining picoador renewed the charge, and another came in with shouts to take the dead man's place. One of these had his horse's skin dreadfully ripped off his side, and when he breathed, the entrails swelled out of the hole, to prevent which the rider got off and stuffed in his pocket-handkerchief. It was too plain to escape observation, that the men fought shy after the horrible accident of this evening.

They have tin casings to their legs under the padding of their gaiters, the saddles rise before and behind in the ancient manner, and the stirrup is a sort of iron box for the foot. The amphitheatre was better attended in the morning than after dinner.

We were attracted this evening to the theatre de los Canos by the revival of La Buscona (the Female Sharper,) a comedy of

Lope de Vega, altered and modernized. We found a very numerous audience assembled, who were throughout remarkably attentive. The play was well got up in all the respects of performers, dresses, and scenery; it contained no buffoonery, and there was less laughter than I expected: but when a burst took place it was loud and general. The plot of the piece was a good deal after the English fashion, though with fewer incidents.

The chief characters were a lover with a comic servant, and a woman (La Buscona) who makes love, and disappoints another of her sex. There were five acts, and each act had its unity of scene: it lasted about two hours and a half, and was followed by a *tonadilla* (a duet) and *saynete*, which is a bad imitation of French dancing. The respectability of the performance of this evening, and the numbers and attention of the audience, shew that the drama has its admirers even at Madrid; yet the state of this amusement in the metropolis is very disgraceful to the national taste, which seems to look for no other gratification than what is afforded by bull-fights and religious mummeries.

June 21st. We walked this morning about a quarter of a mile from Madrid to the Puenti de Segovia, and from an eminence beyond it surveyed what is esteemed the finest view of the city. Madrid can on-

ly claim magnificence in two quarters, namely, the Prado and the Calle di Alcala, the breadth of this street, and its advantageous situation on the slant of a hill, give it a very striking appearance. The town in general is composed of brick houses, which are often plaistered over. They are seldom higher than those in London, and do not seem to be built with any great solidity. Many of the public edifices are of plain stone, but where architecture is attempted, it is always of the worst kind. The shops are mean, but not ill supplied with the articles they sell. The grandees of Spain live in hotels in every respect inferior to those of the upper ranks in France and Italy; and indeed, are often smaller than the common houses of our nobility in London.

The large palace of the duke of Alva must of course be excepted, which is four stories high, has twenty-seven windows in front, and seventeen on the side; and is, after the king's palace, the largest building in Madrid; it stands near the Prado, distinct, and walled round: the marks of fire and destruction are on it. It has been twice burnt by the mob: and the duchess now lives like her peers in the Calle di Alcala.

The duke of Medina Celi, who is the oldest title, and before the rise of the Prince of Peace, was the richest subject in Spain, has

an immense house, without architecture, which, not being more lofty than the common buildings in Madrid, has the appearance of a long street of houses. The palace of the duke of Grenada is more ancient: it is built of brick, two stories high, and though somewhat larger, is not unlike Winchester-house at Chelsea. Every window in the town hangs out linen and mat blinds, which form a principal feature in its prospects.

The best general views of Madrid, are from the terrace near the Buen-Retiro, and from the high ground near the bridge of Segovia. In the former you have the foreground of the Prado, and in the latter the trees about the river and the new palace.

The great peculiarity of this metropolis is its numberless little spires; at a distance they are insignificant, but on a nearer prospect they have a striking and very picturesque effect. We counted in the view from the bridge of Segovia, above seventy of them. Looking at the city on this side, notwithstanding the adequate splendour of the palace, which makes up about one fourth of the line of building in the prospect, we can hardly believe it to be the residence of the court, and the seat of government of so vast an empire. But the dulness and want of magnificence of Madrid, arises more from private than from political causes; and is rather to

be attributed to the apathy and unenterprising genius of the Spanish nobles, than to the absence of trade, or the poverty of individuals.

CHAP. VII.

St. Ildefonso.—Old Castile.—Segovia.—Cathedral. Alcazar.—Aqueduct—Guadarama Mountains.—Park of the Escurial.—The Convent.—The Casa Reale.

June 21st. We set out this evening in a coach with seven mules, to gratify our curiosity at St. Ildefonso, Segovia, and the Escurial. The evening was pleasant, but the night became cold as we approached the Guadarama mountains. Having rested two hours in a venta at their feet (five leagues and a half from Madrid,) at four o'clock we began to ascend by an excellent road: the hills are on this side bleak and barren, often shewing excrescences of rock, and in many places covered with large patches of snow. After passing the highest part which the road traverses, we descended into a vast chasm or valley, entirely clothed with a forest of pines; fine trees, and assuming more fantastic shapes than any I have seen before. The road continues to wind, among grand views of woods, hills, and snow, towards a lower rock, where the royal seat has been built: in our way to it, we passed several groves of sapling oaks made by the king;

but the approach to St. Ildefonso is totally without grandeur or dignity. A narrow avenue leads at once to the antique facade of the palace; the affect of this is peculiar and striking, and well accords with the ideas the imagination forms of an old Spanish palace. In the centre is the church, with a dome and spires: and on each side, long wings of brick stretch forward, low, but extensive. We breakfasted at a neat posada, (Fonda de los Cabaleros,) and proceeded to inspect the apartments and gardens.

The palace contains no fine rooms or furniture, but has a numerous collection of pictures and statues. The queen's apartments are a suite of small rooms, which have lately been decorated with the best efforts of the paper manufactory of Madrid: in general, in ornamental compartments, and in some of them are imitations of drawing in Indian ink; the taste and execution of them advance as high as any thing of the sort I have seen any where. The rest of the apartments in the same story, have their white walls hung with pictures; principally family portraits, which are stiff and ill done. Indeed the whole collection is very indifferent, though it contains some works of the great masters: among these is the portrait of our Charles I. by Vandyke, which has been greatly damaged. We remarked a highly finished French picture of Louis

XIV. when duke de Berri, full of the expression of feeble mildness. There are also indifferent portraits of Louis XVI. Philip II and V. and Charles III.

The principal rooms have London clocks, like those we observed in the new Palace of Madrid.

On a table in the bed-chamber of one of the infantas, we saw a representation of the nativity in wax, with two large altar candles on each side; and in the anti-room a confession-box is placed near the door. Below stairs, (the palace is only two stories high) is a long suite of unornamented rooms, with white plaister walls, in which the celebrated collection of statues is arranged. Here I experienced a greater disappointment than in the pictures, having heard much more of them. The gallery would hardly support a comparison with any of the Roman palaces. It has, however, a few fine things. The groupe of Castor and Pollux, as it is called, is well known by the numerous casts dispersed throughout Europe; it is pleasing and graceful, though I think it has been too much praised. A Faun has considerable merit; we also admired a statue which is like, but inferior to that which bears the name of Cleopatra, at the Louvre. Danae, the mutilated remains of the muses, with beautiful drapery, and Faith veiled, are all worthy of praise. There is a good bust of

Gordian; and an altar, handsomely sculptured, which is supposed to have contained the ashes of Caligula. A bas-relief of a head, with the name Olympia under it, has a very mild pleasing expression. The rest, among which are several modern works, are below mediocrity. In the bust room is a collection of Egyptian deities in black basaltes; and a statue of Abundance, who is represented in an advanced state of pregnancy.

The front of the palace next the garden has been modernized with larger windows, and four slices of Corinthian columns; but no grandeur has been accomplished: indeed, it would have been nearly impossible to have produced much effect from this long brick building, only two stories high. The gardens are said to have cost seven millions, from the barrenness of the spot, and the distance from which the new earth was brought. Some persons have compared them with those of Versailles, which, though detestable to the eye of taste, must certainly be allowed to be the perfection of stiff French gardening. Indeed they are not only the perfection, but, I believe, the sole effort of the kind, that has any claim to magnificence and grandeur of effect. There is no medium! Without vastness of extent and ornament, which are accompanied by the ideas of great labour and extent, this style falls at once in-

to a contemptible mixture of dulness and meanness. The gardens of St. Ildefonso have a number of fountains, and a stair-case for a cascade ; but the only pleasing part of it (for it has shady and pleasing walks) is where you get out of sight of these, and see, "while the dog-star rages," through the overhanging trees, the side of the mountain patched with snow. It was not very cool at twelve o'clock, the day being remarkably calm ; but every gale that breathed partook of the snowy influence of the mountain. The fountains are situated in centres, whither the straight walks tend : they are all inferior in size to the largest at Versailles ; but one of them, a figure of Fame, is said to raise water higher than any in Europe. But with regard to fountains, it is the column of water they raise, and not the height to which a slender stream can be squirted, that renders them stupendous or beautiful ; and on this account, those of St. Peter's, and the Fontana di Previ, at Rome, have been preferred before all the *jets d'eau* in the world. The gardens are not more than two miles in circumference. Many of the flowers were now in bloom ; indeed, the King almost meets a new spring when he seeks refuge here in July ; and notwithstanding the want of extent, brilliancy, and magnificence, he must consider this shady retreat in the mountains of Guadarama, as supplying him with more

real pleasure than half the appendages of his crown. The glass manufactory of St. Ildefonso has produced much larger glasses than any other in Europe; but they are complained of as being of a dead and black colour.

The road to Segovia, the tower of whose cathedral we already discovered, is over a slanting plain, which is excellent for sheep pasturage; having left the mountains behind, we entered on a flat and open country.

The face of Old Castile presents an arid appearance, very seldom variegated by groves of pines.

Segovia is a little city, with three prime curiosities: a perfect Roman aqueduct, a Moorish castle, and a large cathedral, besides a shew of antiquity in almost every street. As we entered, we observed a new amphitheatre for bull-fights, building principally, no doubt, for the court of St. Ildefonso; and a battery, a place of exercise for the cadets of artillery, whose school is established in the Alcazar. The suburb is almost as large as the city; we passed through it eagerly, had a glimpse of the aqueduct, entered the gates, and soon after landed at the best inn we have seen in Spain: it is built round a large court, with galleries supported on ancient pillars. We lost no time in beginning with the antiquities: the cathedral came first, a building which would puz-

zle any connoisseur in Gothic architecture extremely, being a piece of modern Gothic of the 16th century; it is large and lofty, with an high tower and little domes, retaining in its outline much of the Gothic character, but very plain and unlike any particular style of that species of building, and perfectly dissimilar to the florid manner which obtained in England during the 15th century.

The Alcazar, situated on a small rock, next the river, at the end of the town, is the most picturesque object in the world. The great tower has been lately cleaned, which rather modernizes its appearance: but the effect of the whole mass of turrets, chambers, and spires, as viewed from behind, beyond the foss, is as romantic as possible. The front of the castle is covered by rings worked in the plaister with which it is covered, an ornament of Moorish origin. We visited three chambers within, which are well worthy of notice for their splendour and peculiarity; the roofs having been gilded by order of Ferdinand and Isabella, who kept their court here at the time when the first gold arrived after the discovery of America: one of them we could not see perfectly, on account of a false ceiling which is suspended below it; but it appeared to be very magnificent, though in a heavy taste. The second is perfectly beautiful; the pattern is Moorish, and consists of

twisted and plaited bands, such as are seen in the illuminations of korans, and on the capita's of Moorish columns. Nothing can surpass the splendour and gracefulness of the effect. The third chamber has a rich roof with flowers in compartments; beneath which, round the sides, are magnificent gilt niches, containing the figures of the Kings and Queens of Castile till the time of Ferdinand. The room is large and sumptuous, and the splendour and admirable preservation of the gilding remarkably striking.—Here are some models of figueras and other fortifications; and two excellent likenesses of the present King and Queen. Beyond this room is a passage with a hanging gilt roof, in the Moorish style. We were shewn the room where the cadets dine, and the kitchen. At length the iron grate and internal door of the great tower were unlocked, and we ascended, looking at every story into prisons rendered famous by the fictions of La Sage. The great tower is surrounded at the top by hanging turrets; from its leaden roof we reviewed the city by the splendid tints of sunset; it is an interesting spot, but the country around it is bleak and desolate; and without being in the melancholy humour of Gil Blas, I must perfectly subscribe to his opinion of the prospect. L'Eresma ne me parut qu'un ruisseau; l'ortie seule et le chardon paroient sur ses

bords fleuris; et la pretendue *vallé e delicieuse* n'offrit à ma vue que des terres, dont la plupart étoient incultes.

June 23. We this morning surveyed the celebrated aqueduct of Segovia, which stretches across the suburbs of the higher ground on which the city stands. It consists of two ranges of arches; the lower very lofty, and about twelve feet wide. When seen in profile, it is particularly striking; but Swinburne could not have reflected, when he preferred it to the Pont du Garde. Aqueducts, independent of their situation, attain magnificence from their extent, the grandeur of their arches, and the massiveness of their materials; in all these respects, this work is inferior to the famous remain of the south of France. The arches are narrower, and the granite, though of a grey colour, is divided into too many small parts to produce an equally striking effect. The upper stories of the houses of Segovia project over the lower, and are supported by ancient pillars, made in a barbarous taste, with capitals carved into leaves, flowers, animals, &c. which might probably have been prevalent when Ferdinand kept his court here in the fifteenth century. Several of the churches of this city are built in a manner resembling our Saxon style. On leaving the town we traversed the wide sheep walks in the neighbourhood; across which, the towers of the

cathedral, and the roofs of the Alcazar, were to be discerned for a long time. To the left we observed the cadets practising manœuvres according to the French system, with the flying artillery, which has lately been introduced. At length we arrived at the Venta di Sam Rafael, at the foot of the Guadarama mountains, where we obtained an indifferent dinner; and afterwards ascended among groves of sapling oaks and pines, though we observed that the greater part of these hills are bleak and without trees. Pillars are placed at certain distances, to shew the direction of the road when the ground is covered with snow in winter. We passed the summit, where a statue of a lion is erected, and descended into a pleasant valley full of verdure, and ornamented with trees, which afforded a striking contrast to the barren face of Old Castile. In this pleasant spot, surrounded with pastures, stands the poor and dirty village of Guadarama, which gives a name to the mountains. Passing this, where we bought some bread of an old woman, who told us "to live a thousand years," we entered the park or chase of the Escurial, a considerable tract, covered with cork, carob, and small oak and ash-trees. It cannot vie either in the beauty, or the picturesque grouping of trees, with an English forest; but it has a fine wild look, especially where the mountains

come into the prospect. We observed several herds of deer, and a large wolf was seen by the muleteers. As we approached the nook in which the convent stands, the trees and verdure gradually left us.

It was late when we arrived; our curiosity for the present, therefore, was rather excited than gratified, by the appearance of some dimly-seen towers, and a dome rising over the little town, where we found a very comfortable posada. The bell of the monastery roused us after dinner, and we made a moonlight expedition to see this famous structure. We reached it through a narrow and dirty street, and our eyes wandered over a vast expanse of dull unornamented buildings; but we returned fully assured, that we should be better pleased in the morning.

June 24th. *The Escurial.*—Eight o'clock found us surveying the exterior of this celebrated edifice, which, after all the puffs of the Spaniards, and the boasts of travellers, must be confessed to be nothing more in appearance, as well as reality, than a vast dull convent; and if the four towers at the corners, and the dome, which is not more considerable than those to be seen in the smallest towns in Italy, where to be removed, it would have the look of a great barrack or manufactory.

The walls of grey granite are perforated with thousands of little windows; and no

ornament is attempted except about the chief entrance, where some clumsy half columns of the Doric order are plaistered against the building. A square form is the worst that can be chosen for a building of expense and grandeur; but the extent of this fabric is not only wasted and lessened to the eye, by the adoption of this shape, but a great part of its structure is entirely hid, from its having been modelled in the figure of a gridiron, to gratify the caprice or superstition of Philip II. The only place from whence an idea can be gained of its vast extent, is from the mill above it, where all the roofs are perfectly visible. It has been characterized with great justice, as a quarry above ground. The buildings here compacted together in a lump, would, if stretched into a line, or formed into a body with wings, have even now astonished, by their extent, a traveller who had visited other countries. We must account for the excessive admiration of the Escurial, by considering the era in which it was constructed, when Versailles, St. Peter's, and many other vast fabrics of later times, were as yet unknown to Europe.

Passing the great gate we entered an oblong court, not very large, having the front of the church at the end of it, ornamented with some half columns of the same order as the entrance; with the further addition of some wretched statues of the kings of Israel.

The church itself is a plain solid fabric, of considerable grandeur; the strength with which it is built, and indeed the whole of that edifice, which is composed of Guadarama granite, is amazing. The Doric pilasters within the church are fluted; but the painted ceilings of Luca Giordano, &c. little accord with the solidity and plainness of the structure. All the cupboards of the treasure and relics were open to-day, it being the festival of St. John the Baptist. The choir, as is common in Spanish convents, is raised above the door. The grandest objects which present themselves upon entering the church, are, the high altar, and the monuments within its precincts; these have indeed a very striking effect: the altar-piece consists of the four orders of architecture, erected according to the taste of the time one over the other, richly carved, with paintings between them. On each side of the sanctuary in which this is placed, are the cenotaphs of Charles V. and Philip II. on which the kneeling figures of those monarchs and their families are represented as large as life, dressed in gilt robes, with their faces devoutly turned to the altar. The friar appointed by the King for the purpose of attending strangers, carried us through the church, and the other parts of the convent; he at first took us to the upper cloister, where the finest part of the whole building is discovered: from its

windows we looked into a court, called El Patio de los Evangelistas, which is perfectly regular, and has an air of considerable grandeur. The architecture is not unlike the library of Trinity College, Cambridge, but the effect of this is more striking, from its extending round the four sides of the court. The collection of paintings distributed in different parts of this convent, is sufficient of itself to reward a journey to Madrid. Raphael shines here in more than usual pre-eminence: after him Vandyke and Rubens have high claims on our admiration, as well as a number of other masters, whose names and works I will notice as shortly and distinctly as I am able.

The upper cloister contains many paintings by Luca Giordano; they are not, however, entitled to much praise: in ceilings this artist is sufficiently clear, brilliant, and pleasing; great force and expression are not particularly required; but in his easel pictures he necessarily aims at these, and falls unfortunately into an extravagance, which reminds me of some of the worst efforts of Spagnolletto, though without his strength of light and shade. The Murder of Innocents is the best of Luca Giordano's labours in this convent, and the ass in his picture of Balaam seems absolutely to speak. An Holy Family, by a Spanish artist called Mudo, from his being dumb, is painted

with some vulgarity, but with great expression. Lot and his Daughter, by Guercino, Jacob and his Flock, by Spagnoletto.

Two chambers contain a Virgin and Child, in a very free and admirable style, by Leonardo da Vinci. The same subject by Raphael. A Crucifixion, with considerable spirit, by Albert Durer. Saviour's Head, as highly finished as possible, by Leonardo da Vinci. Virgin and Child, by the same.

The chamber of the prince of Asturias.—A portrait of Philip II. by Pantoja, which is unlike the celebrated picture of Valasquez, in the palace at Madrid; but it probably is a more exact resemblance, as Pantoja was contemporary with this subject. There are in the same room good likenesses of the king and queen, and a picture of a Monk writing, by a Spanish artist.

The anti-room to the treasury—contains a large Allegory, by Titian, which has some fine parts; and a Dead Christ, by the same master.

The cabinet or treasury is full of miniature wonders and curiosities. The miniature Nativity, attributed to Buonarotti, is clearly designed, but inexpressive. A small ivory head of Christ, ascribed to the same, is excellent! Miniature of the Virgin and dead Christ, on marble, by Annibal Caracci, a Companion (a Monk and Vision) by the same. A rich Cross, ornamented with

an immense topaz. The body of one of the Innocents murdered by Herod, in a glass-case: this seems rather to have been a fœtus than a child of two years' growth, as our guide asserted. Another remarkable relic is also preserved here, namely, one of the Vases presented to Christ by the three kings. We were shewn also a MS. parchment book on Baptism, and an autograph of St. Augustin.

A very solemn mass, accompanied by a fine organ, began as we were descending into the anti-sacristy and sacristy, where the monks were robing themselves to make a grand procession into the church. Here we remarked St. Peter and Paul, by Spagnoletto. A Madonna, by Andrea del Sarto. Christ disputing with the Doctors, by Rubens; and St. Jerome, by Vandyke. The altar-piece of the sacristy is a representation of Charles II. of Spain kneeling before the host at the Fête Dieu. The King, the Nobles, the Priests, &c. are all portraits. It is an excellent painting, the work of Paulo Coello, a Portuguese, who has some others of considerable merit in the church. But it is hardly fair for these or any other pictures to be hung in the same apartment with two of the best efforts of the inimitable Raphael, in which he seems almost to have surpassed himself, and arrived at the highest perfection of the art. The paintings I allude to are,

the Visitation of the Virgin, and the Madonna de la Perta; which was purchased with some others of Charles the First's collection, in England, for 40,000*l.* by the ambassador of Philip II. I will enlarge further on these interesting subjects, when I have mentioned the other famous Raphael in possession of this convent.

In an interior room there is an highly worked *ciborium* of gold and precious stones —We now began to discover that whatever were the merits of our reverend *Cicerone*, he could not have been selected from the brotherhood for his taste or knowledge in the fine arts; he carried us immediately from these glorious Raphaels into the lower cloister, where he shewed us some wretched daubings, by Romulo Cincinnato, upon which he dwelt for a considerable time, and told us that we should esteem ourselves particularly fortunate; for had it not been a festival, the shutters which inclose them would not have been open. The great staircase which ascends from the cloister, is built of massive granite; but it is neither remarkable for its beauty or grandeur. The roof is painted with representations of the battle of St. Quintin, the building of the Escurial, and the Apotheosis of Philip II. executed in a brilliant and pleasing manner by Luca Giordano. From this we proceeded along a number of passages, from whence we had views into

the smaller and more dreary courts of the Gridiron Building, and after many turnings and windings arrived at the door of the library. This is a large apartment, in which the ceiling makes as great a figure as the books; it is coved and painted; but it is too much of an arch to accord in proportion with the walls of the room. The printed books are here arranged on shelves, which abound, as usual, with folios of scholastic divinity. The MSS. are kept in a chamber above. The catalogue of those in the Latin and Greek languages has long been known to the world; and an account of the remains of the invaluable Arabic collection which escaped the fire of 1671 (at which time the greatest part were consumed), was edited about thirty years ago, at the expense of the court, by the learned Casiri. Europe is not therefore, as is frequently asserted, entirely without light respecting the treasures of this celebrated deposit; and the plan of gradually translating the Arabic works is still carried on by the government.—The treatise on Agriculture, written by an Arabian of the twelfth century, which is mentioned by Gibbon,* has lately been published: it contains much curious matter, and shows that the mode of irrigation which promotes the astonishing fertility of the plain of Valencia, has

* Hist. vol. v. page 380.

descended to the modern Spaniards, from the practice of the Moors, who probably derived it from Egypt.

It were to be wished here, as well as in the Herculaneum MSS. at Portici, that more persons were employed, and that the publications succeeded each other with greater rapidity, that the present generation might have some chance of benefiting from the smothered lights which they have perhaps in their possession. The convent libraries of Spain are often represented as objects of the greatest curiosity; but I much doubt whether a search into them would tend much to the information of mankind; though the archives of Valladolid, towards which Robertson turned a wistful eye, would throw a strong light on a most interesting part of the History of the World.

The library of the Escurial contains portraits of Charles V. and Philip II. and several models of ships of their ages.

We now repassed an hundred passages, descended the stairs, and entered a long room, which is fitted up with an altar and stalls, and was used as a chapel before the great church was finished.

La iglesia vieja. The altar-piece, representing the martyrdom of St. Lawrence, is by Titian, but has not any very distinguished excellence; a Dead Christ, near it, by the same master, is of considerable merit;

A Portrait of Philip II. the same countenance as that in the chamber of the Prince of Asturias, but at a more advanced age; and another of Charles V. by Pantoja, A. D. 1599. Our guide now undrew a curtain, and revealed to us the admirable painting of Raphael, which is known all over Europe by the name of La Madonna de la Pesce. But it was now eleven o'clock, which called him to the refectory: we were therefore hurried away from a spot to which we felt almost rooted, with a promise that he would be ready for us again at two. Having ordered our dinner at twelve, we took a fatiguing walk to the hill above the convent, and round its walls; dined most sumptuously at the posada, and as the clock struck two, were awaiting the friar at the place of rendezvous: he had stationed a person there to inform him of our arrival, who in a few minutes brought him to us, rubbing his eyes and yawning, just awoke from his siesta. He carried us round the upper cloister into the chapter-room, and the two adjoining apartments. The ceilings of these are covered and prettily painted with arabesque ornaments: among the pictures we distinguished a Madonna, by Vandyke; Holy Family, by Raphael; the same groupe, but an inferior painting to that in the Louvre gallery. Conversion of St. Paul, by Palma Vecchio. Virgin gazing with delight on

Christ, by Vandyke. Dead Christ, with the Virgin and Mary Magdalen, by Rubens: this is one of the finest groupes and finest paintings in the world; the Virgin is quite the *mater dolorum;* her pallid face and agony could not be better expressed; the colour of Christ's flesh is admirable. There can be no doubt that this picture ranks immediately after the three glorious Raphaels in this collection. The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian, expressed naturally, but without much dignity, by Vandyke; a Madonna, by Guido; the Crown of Thorns, by Vandyke; St. Paul's Head, by Guido; St. Peter's Head, by the same; a whole length of St. James, by Spagnoletto; St. Jerome, by Guercino; the sons of Jacob shewing their father the bloody vest of Joseph, full of force and good painting, by Valesquez; Christ and Peter, by Vandyke; a Magdalen, by the same; St. Roch, by Spagnoletto; St. Sebastian, by the same; the Binding of Christ, by Peligrino Tibaldi, has some good parts. These apartments are used for the levees, and the ministers, when the court is at the Escurial.

We now descended to the Pantheon, the burial-place of the sovereigns of Spain, which is constructed under the church, in the centre of the building; it is approached by a marble passage, on one side of which is a vault, where the bodies are left to decay be-

fore they are placed in the sarcophagi which are destined to receive them. The Pantheon of Escurial has been absurdly supposed to be a copy of the Pantheon of Rome, whereas no two buildings could hardly be more dissimilar; this being an *octagon* building, entirely of marble: six of the sides have shelves, with sarcophagi on them, each side containing four: the two remaining sides are occupied with the altar and the door, which has two sarcophagi over it: the whole is decorated with pilasters and carving, but it is too small to justify the magnificent descriptions which travellers have given of it. The kings are to fill one half of the sarcophagi, and the queens the other; seven of the former, and the same number of the latter, among whom is Anna Regina, who the friar told us was our queen Mary, have already gained their stations. Charles III. still remains in the adjoining vault. The present king has visited this place; but it is said the queen has never been prevailed upon to see it. Her character does not, perhaps, lead her to contemplate the idea of mortality with peculiar complacency; and the spot, and the very receptacle of our bones being shewn, must renovate the certainty of death in the most awful manner.

We were permitted for some time to enjoy the three great pictures of Raphael. I was not long in making a preference; and

yet, upon turning to the others, my resolution was sometimes staggered. The finest feelings of love and admiration, and almost of adoration, are excited by the inimitable representation of the Visitation. In this picture the Virgin expresses a modesty which cannot be surpassed: and her face glows with a beauty perfectly celestial: as a contrast to this, the aged and finely marked countenance of Elizabeth, adds every effect possible, and her lips are indeed speaking words of high import.

The Madonna de la Perla, is far more brilliant in its colouring than either of the other pictures. The leading trait of the last was *modesty;* this has *maternal tenderness.* The Virgin's face is admirably fine, and fully gives the intended expression: the aid of contrast too is, as before, afforded by the figure of Elizabeth, old and haggard, who sits by her side, while the infant Jesus, more beautiful and smiling than I can express, is springing from her arms, to play with John; in fact, he appears leaping from the canvass: the effect of light and shade was never more inimitably managed: the light resting on the Virgin's forehead, is finely conceived; and the richness of colouring throughout, adds greatly to the effect of the whole.

The Madonna de la Pesce expresses majesty. It is a transcendent picture, on a most extraordinary subject: St. Jerome is

reading the bible to the Virgin, and has fixed upon that part which relates the adventures of Tobit and the fish; by way of confirming the history, or for some other reason, an angel introduces Tobit with the fish in his hand, who, as may be supposed, is a little frightened to find himself suddenly "in such a presence;" especially as the Virgin assumes any thing but a gracious air to receive him. During this action the child is employed in stretching out his arms to catch the fish as a plaything. This picture has, without doubt, more good points about it, than either of the other two, arising from the greater variety and complication of the subject, and the greater number of figures introduced. The Virgin's face is very fine, but it rather expresses *hauteur* and disdain, than calm and beneficent majesty. The countenance of the angel is the best in the picture; it is perfectly of a "celestial mould." Fear and hesitation are admirably pourtrayed in the features of Tobit; and a fine contrast is exhibited in the venerable person of Jerome, to the youth and beauty of the other objects. The colouring is excellently managed, and the grouping is admirable, but the subject is awkward, and somewhat worse than uninteresting: in reviewing it, the eye is gratified, while the mind feels confused and disappointed. As all the subjects are fully accomplished by the wonderful hand of

Raphael, I cannot, for an additional point of painting or two, prefer that in which I only admire the painter, to that where, as in the Visitation, his art co-operates with the subject to affect me with the most sublime emotions of intellectual pleasure. It seems extraordinary that as yet we are not possessed of any good engraving of any of those interesting works: that by Bartolozzi, which is published in Twisse's Travels, is miserably deficient in every part of the expression of the original, and seems rather to have been an engraving from a work of Cipriani, than from Raphael. At present a Spanish artist is engaged in preparing plates of them; but excepting Molés, there is no one upon whose talents any great expectations can be formed.

The friar with difficulty withdrew us from these invaluable treasures; and taking us to his chambers, where he refreshed us with wine, he offered to accompany us to the Casa-Reale, the royal pleasure-house, which is situated in the park of the Escurial, at a little distance from the convent. The friar's apartment was what the Spaniards call a sala con alcova—a room, with a recess for a bed in it. The windows command a noble prospect of the neighbouring country; immediately beneath them is a wide terrace, ornamented with a garden set out in the old fashion of stiff parterres; and beyond this

the eye ranges over a free and extensive park, every where covered with masses of short trees, shewing in several parts, ponds and reservoirs of water and backed by a bleak ridge of the Guadarama mountains; the whole forming a wild and very grand view, which announces the residence of a monarch much more than any part of the building itself. Accompanied by the friar, we descended the hill from the convent, and soon after entered the garden which surrounds the Cassa-Reale; it is full of young trees, which like those at Madrid and Aranjuez, are regularly watered every evening. In other respects, it has nothing remarkable, except the hot-house, which is one of the shabiest I have ever seen. The exterior of the villa promises nothing either of extent or magnificence; but upon entering we were astonished at the number of rooms it contained, all of which are fitted up in the most elegant and perfect taste. The walls and ceilings are painted after patterns which have an excellent general effect; and the whole house unites an air of comfort with its splendour, which, according to our guide, rendered it an object of envy to every Englishman he had shewn it to. The rooms, excepting two, which are of handsome proportion, are small; the walls ornamented with a profusion of cabinet pictures, the greater part of which are of the Flemish

school; in the chief apartments there are several of a larger scale. In the first room, near the entrance, is an admirable portrait of Velasquez, by himself; and another of Murillo, by himself; a Head, by Moralez, called El Divino. I have seen but few of the works of this artist; his finishing is very high, like Carlo Dolce, but he seems deficient in force and expression. A Head, by Vandyke. A Magistrate, by the same, has a fine mellowness of colour, and is one of the best heads I have any where seen. An Empress of Germany by the same. A Madona by Murillo; the same subject, by the same artist. These are well painted, but without characteristic dignity. Murrillo is an excellent painter: his view of nature seems to have been as true as possible; but of ideal beauty he had hardly any notion. This judgment is formed from what I have seen at Madrid and the Escurial; but the great treasury of his works, is the Hospital de la Caridad, at Seville, where he painted after his last visit to Rome. Among the other pictures of the Casa-Reale, I remarked a winged figure of prodigality, by Mengs; a graceful and pleasing work, though deficient in expression. The Conversion of St. Paul, and Death of Julian, by Luca Giordano, exhibits a boldness which reaches to extravagance; Apostles, copied after Spagnoletto, by Murillo. A Vision, by the same,

near this we remarked, as a representation of the most ordinary vulgarity, St. Catherine, by Dominicino. The Casa is two stories high; the upper rooms form a suite of cabinets or boudoirts, ornamented with the most exquisite elegance: one in particular should be noticed, which contains most beautiful and exact copies in miniature, of all the celebrated paintings of Europe—the Madonnas della Leggiola della Pesce, della Perla; the Transfiguration of Raphael; Guido's Magdalen; the Holy family, and Notte of Corregio; the Communion of St. Jerome, by Dominicino, &c. &c.: and the adjoining room is fitted up with the celebrated coloured prints from Raphael's Loggia, pilasters, &c.; slabs of Biscay, Arragon, and Grenada marble, are distributed in different apartments, one of which is almost entirely fitted up with specimens from the various quarries of Spain. There are several sea pieces by Vernet; one of which was a present from the gallery of Versailles, and is, perhaps the finest work of that exquisite master. Near it is a Conversion of St. Paul, by Murillo. One of the apartments is fitted up with medallions, and ornaments of Madrid porcelain; but these are not particularly well executed: the walls of the stair-case are painted with the Wars of Grenada, and Surrender of Minorca by the English. In the other rooms we noticed a St. Bruno, by

Rembrandt. St. John, by Murillo; and a Magdalen, in the style of the Italian school, which they attribute to the former master. This delicious retreat, which, though smaller is to be preferred to the *Petit Trianon* of Versailles, is visited almost daily by the royal family, during their residence at the Escurial in the autumn. Its situation might be improved; but it is agreeable, considering the country and nothing can be more beautiful and perfect than its internal arrangement and decoration.

The palace of the Escurial is the great boast of the Spaniards, and, according to them, constitutes an Eighth Wonder of the World. A description of it has been published in Spain, filling a large quarto volume. Its construction is said to have cost Philip the Second above five millions of ducats, (1,250,000*l.* sterling); but in fact its whole expense was never known. Its first view is very striking, from the vast number of windows which it presents; there being three hundred and sixty-six in the east front, and two hundred in the west. The apartments are most splendidly embellished with an immense quantity of paintings and sculptures, tapestry, ornaments of gold and silver, marble, jasper, and other curious and precious stones. Besides the palace (strictly so called), this mass of building includes a magnificent church, a mausoleum, cloisters, a

convent, a college, and a library of thirty thousand volumes, rendered also particularly valuable by a numerous collection of Greek and Arabian manuscripts. The pannels of the wainscot are surmounted by frescoes of subjects from sacred or profane history, or from the sciences treated of in the books standing under them: above the theological works, for instance, is represented the council of Nice; above the mathematical treatises, the capture of Syracuse and death of Archimedes; and above those on eloquence and jurisprudence, Cicero delivering his oration for Rabirius. Here are also spacious apartments for artists of every description, beautiful walks, parks, gardens, fountains, and master-pieces of statuary. The convent contains two hundred monks, and a revenue of nearly 12,000*l.* sterling. The mausoleum, or pantheon, I have described already.

Though I can readily admit that this collection of architecture, with its multifarious decorations, must have cost a vast sum, I must be allowed to pronounce its whole plan a singular example of bad taste. The whole has been disposed in the form of a gridiron, in allusion to the instrument of that description on which St. Lawrence (the patron of this palace) is said to have suffered martyrdom. Gridirons indeed here present themselves abundantly to the eye every moment

on the doors, windows, altars, mass-books, and the dresses of the priests. So preposterous an idea could never have arisen in the mind of any but the barbarous and bigoted founder, who raised this edifice in memory of the victory which, in conjunction with the English, he gained over the French forces at St. Quintin, on St. Lawrence's day, in 1557. The part in which the King resides, forms the handle of the gridiron. The length of the building is six hundred and forty feet, the breadth five hundred and eighty, and the height sixty. This palace has been adorned and enriched by successive sovereigns, but its exterior bears a gloomy appearance, which agrees very well with the genius of its founder, and the inside presents a collection of different structures, which produce all together an unpleasing effect, though comprising some architectural excellencies. It must be confessed, however, that the statues and paintings are capital, and there are some which even rival the most admired productions of Italy. The curiosities of the church here are of another kind: it contains no less than *eleven thousand relics;* I do not know whether they belonged to the *eleven thousand virgins*.

While I am on the subject of the royal palaces, I may as well add something further concerning the other two principal ones of Aranjuez and St. Ildefonso. The former is situated at the distance of eight leagues

from Madrid, and is the usual residence of the court. I must add my testimony to that of all previous travellers, that this is a most charming spot. Here is a park of several leagues in circumference, with walks of two, three, and even four miles in length, bordered on each side by a double row of elms, which cover them with a refreshing shade; and between each of these double rows there is a running brook of clear water. The walks are broad enough to contain four coaches abreast; and the intervals separating them are filled with shrubs and trees of different kinds, among which may be seen thousands of deer, wild boars, hares, rabbits, pheasants, partridges, and all sorts of birds: while cascades, sheep-folds, temples, and artificial ruins, perpetually give a romantic charm to the scene. The palace stands between the park and the garden; which latter is rendered extremely delightful by numerous fountains, statues, and the most beautiful flowers of Europe and America. The edifice itself is less remarkable for airy magnificence than for the elegance of its architecture. Within the last thirty years, a project has been begun to be put into execution for building a town close to the park, all the houses of which were to be constructed according to a plan arranged by the architects of the court; but this arbitrary con-

dition has prevented the proposed town from attaining any considerable extent.

The palace of Ildefonso stands at a small distance from the city of Segovia, among the mountains of Guadarama. This spot was once a frightful desert, and even yet the adjoining mountains are never clear from snow but about the middle of August: the latter circumstance, however, is the very cause which produces here the charms of spring, at a season when every other part of the kingdom is scorching under a violent degree of heat. It was even necessary to undertake the labour of bringing vegetable mould to this spot, and to blow up rocks with gun-powder, in order to obtain level ground to build on; and thus a sum of four millions of piastres was spent for the purpose of procuring his Catholic Majesty the pleasure of seeing his fruit ripen two months later here than any where else. The palace is of brick, overlaid with a coat of painted plaister. It is very plain, and is only one story high: the principal front contains thirty-one windows, and there are twelve rooms on a floor. The gardens are on the declivity of a hill, at the top of which is a large reservoir to supply the fountains, and which is itself supplied by melted snow. The principal entrance of this palace also is *ornamented* with a large gridiron. There are

twenty-seven fountains, with white marble basons, in the gardens; and the statues belonging to those, several of which are excellent, are of lead bronzed and gilt. The gardens are laid out in the French style: and are embellished with marble statues as large as life, twenty-eight marble vases, and twenty vases of lead gilt. The upper apartments of the palace contain some very fine paintings; and the lower ones, antique statues, busts, and *bas-reliefs*.

CHAP. VIII.

The Escurial and Madrid continued.—Manners at Madrid.—Commercial and satistical details of the whole kingdom.—Different sketches of the general manners of the Spaniards and of the state of the army.

As we returned slowly to the Escurial, the friar endeavoured to draw us into a political discussion, for which he proved himself eminently qualified, by mistaking Lord Whitworth for the prime minister of England, thinking London was surrounded by the sea, and that wherever a well was dug in England, salt water was immediately found. He spoke of the Prince of the Peace, and said, that it was his opinion, that the French had given him that holy and appropriate title, merely to bring the christian religion into contempt.* The front of the Escurial

* The title Principe de la Paz, either signifies the Prince of Peace, or the Prince of *the* Peace; but as it is always understood by the Spaniards in the latter sense, and as our language is capable of the distinction, we should undoubtedly translate it in this manner. It was conferred by the court on the upstart Godoy, who had already arrived at the rank of duke, on the occasion of his making peace between France and Spain, in 1794. The title, however, notwithstanding the opinion of the monk of Escurial, is not new in Spain; for I find, at the beginning of the last century, that the negotiations between the court of Madrid and this country were carried on by the Marques de la Paz.

is turned towards the mountains; the pleasantest apartments therefore are those of the back part of the building, where the handle of the gridiron projects: these all look towards the park, and command the noble prospect I have before described. They are occupied by the court during their residence here; but externally they present the same little windows and monastic appearance as the rest of the buildings. There are storks' nests in almost every stack of chimneys of the Escurial; the breeding of these birds is encouraged by the monks; and their majestic sailing through the air, around the convent, adds greatly to the solemn effect of the scene. There are three hundred Jeromite friars in this assembly: the dress is something like that of the Dominicans, white with black hoods, &c., but their clean-shaven heads, with merely a slight ring of hair, render them the neatest-looking order I have yet met with. The town of the Escurial, like those of the other *sitios*, is, in the absence of the court, like a place after the plague. There are a few good houses, some of which are unfinished; a long line of building on one side of the convent, is the residence of the ministers, and of those formally called the ambassadors of the family, that is, of France, Naples, Parma, &c. An hospital for infants is built at the foot of the mountain, opposite the front of the convent; and between

these is a dull walk, which serves for a parade during the time the court is here. As usual, there is a place for bull-fights near the town.

Having finished the sights of this interesting but fatiguing day, our muleteer promised to be ready for us at half past twelve the same night: we retired to bed at eight, and at the appointed time found him as good as his word. Soon after our departure we lost our way in the dark; but at half after eight o'clock arrived safely in the metropolis, having performed about twenty-nine leagues (one hundred and sixteen miles) between Tuesday evening and Saturday morning, and seen some of the most interesting objects in Spain.

In the evening we attended the theatre, De los lanos Peral, a translation of the little French opera La Visitandine, was represented. I had seen it performed at the Feydeau, in Paris; but here, on account of the difference of manners, and, I may say, of religion, several essential alterations took place; for instance, the nunnery was changed into a boarding-school, and the humorous character of the Capuchin into a ridiculous physician: it was, on the whole, well performed, and the fandango followed with its usual spirit.

July 26. I saw to-day at the house of the Danish minister, two most admirable draw-

ings by Chype, who is perhaps the first draughtsman in Europe; one of these is composed of an Italian lake, surrounded by a wood, embosomed in which stands the great temple of Pæstum; the whole is infinitely varied, and contains several beautiful points: but the other is a piece of the most inconceivable richness; it represents a meandering river, which at length loses itself in the sea: on its banks are ancient tombs, temples, altars, and towns, intermingled with groves of beautiful trees and rocks of the most picturesque form. The aerial perspective is inimitably managed, every tree is a distinct portrait, yet the general effect is beyond every thing I have seen; indeed, I believe there is not a spot so rich and so perfectly romantic to be found among the works of nature.

The hour of dining among the foreign ministers is three o'clock, many of the Spanish nobility dine still earlier; in the evening the gentlemen attend the ladies either in their coaches on the Prado, or to walk in the Botanic Gardens. About ten o'clock different houses are thrown open for the reception of company; balls are given occasionally; but the *tertullias*, which answer in some respects to the *assemblies* of London, take place every evening. A tertullia is, however, a more varied and less expensive entertainment than an English assembly:

the only refreshment offered is iced-water, which is eat with long spongy cakes. The company in general converse, or play cards, or rouge et noir; and it is not reckoned surprising or ill-bred to read or draw in these circles, but I never met with any instances of such occupations.

The tertullia which I attended this evening was an easy and pleasant society, the rooms were now crowded, and conversation (properly so called) was supported by several persons; some Americans and Frenchmen were of the party; the former described the wonders of their country, the fortifications discovered in the forests of America, and the traces of what should seem a more advanced state of civilization; from thence we got to extinct volcanoes and the lavas of Mount Vesuvius, a topic which exactly suited the Gallic *savans*, and upon which they did not fail to give vent to all well known plausible, though refuted arguments, till christianity trembled in the scale; at length the Pope's nuncio was opportunely announced, which put an end to the discussion, and the Frenchmen betook themselves to the gambling table.

During my short residence at Madrid I have made it my business to collect a variety of authentic particulars, relative to the present state of this monarchy, and I have freely availed myself of the details of *Bour-*

going, and of the *Memorias economicas y politicas sobre los frutos, lo commercio, &c.* by *Don Eugenio, Larrugas*, of *Cavanillos, Rundel, Pluer*, and others.

This ancient and interesting country is bounded on the north by the gulf of Biscay, and the Pyrenees, which latter separate it from France; on the south by the straits of Gibraltar, on the east by the Mediterranean, and on the west by Portugal and the Atlantic Ocean: and contains in superficial extent about twenty-four millions of square leagues. Its division into provinces (or *kingdoms* as the Spaniards proudly call them all, from some of them having been once so in reality) is according to the following table.

Provinces.	Extent in square leagues.	Greatest length. Leagues.	Greatest breadth. Leagues.	Capitals.
New Castile	4,300	78	65	MADRID
Old Castile	2,700	76	72	Burgos
Leon	1,980	66	40	Leon
Asturias	530	36	16	Oviedo
Galicia	1,250	50	25	Compostella
Estramadura	1,500	60	41	Badajoz
Andalusia	2,600	85	50	Seville
Grenada	1,300	80	40	Grenada
Murcia	1,100	42	30	Murcia
Valencia	1,520	75	25	Valencia
Catalonia	1,700	58	37	Barcelona
Arragon	2,200	64	40	Saragossa
Upper Navarre	450	31	15	Pampeluna
Biscay, with Guipuscoa and Alava	440	28	21	Bilboa
Islands in the Mediterranean — Majorca	880	18	13	Palma
Islands in the Mediterranean — Minorca	80	14	7	Ciudadella
Islands in the Mediterranean — Ivica	60	12	5	Ivica
Total	23,590			

The kingdom of Spain formerly included Portugal; in which extent it was known to the ancients by the different names of Iberia (from the river Iberus,) Hesperia (from its westerly situation with regard to Greece,) and Hispania. About the time of the Punic wars it was divided into hither and further Spain: the former consisting of the provinces northward of the Eber; and the latter, which was much the largest, those beyond that river. After undergoing another division under Augustus, and being afterwards separated into several small kingdoms, in the fifteenth century it comprised three considerable states, called Castile, Aragar, and Portugal; and the union of the two first of these constitutes the present Spanish monarchy.

The climate varies greatly in the different provinces: in general, the more northern ones are wet and cold, the south wet and scorching, and the middle dry and hot. About the time of the equinoxes it hardly ever rains in the southern and middle parts; which causes the air there to be tranquil and excessively hot in the months of June, July, and August: the nights however are very cool, yet exposure to the night air is not dangerous. Both ancient and modern history record instances of extraordinary effects from the great droughts to which this country is subject. Justin, and several other old

writers, speak of a general conflagration of the forests which once covered the Pyrenees: and we are informed that in the seventeenth century no rain fell on Sierra Morena during a period of fourteen years; in consequence of which all the springs in those parts dried up, the forests caught fire, and the earth split in large clifts, which still remain open. But refreshing breezes proceed from off the mountains that run across the whole of Spain, and these allay the heat of the southern provinces: and towards the mountains in the north and north-east, the cold is sometimes insupportable.

The hills which descend on the north into the gulf of Biscay, and terminate on the south in mountains covered with snow, are of so moist a temperature that their inhabitants find it impossible to preserve fruit or grain of any kind undamaged, or their instruments of iron from rust; and both acid and putrid fermentation speedily take place. The diet of the people contributes no less than this relaxing peculiarity of climate, to produce disorders which prove extensively fatal in the provinces of the Asturias: yet, what is very extraordinary, notwithstanding such a degree of general unhealthiness, few countries furnish more striking examples of longevity; and it is not at all uncommon to find men of the age of a hundred years, a hundred and ten, and even more. In the province of

Galicia, also, the clergyman of a parish, in the year 1724, administered the sacrament to thirteen sick persons, whose ages together amounted to 1499 years.

Spain was once very fertile in corn; but from the indolence of the inhabitants, and their consequent neglect of agriculture, this article has long been scarce there. In several parts the earth produces almost spontaneously, delicious fruits. There are said to be in the district of Malaga alone fourteen thousand presses employed in making the well-known exquisite wine which is called mountain when it is white, but by another name when (as is sometimes the case) it is red. Between eight hundred and a thousand vessels annually enter the port of Malaga, of which number only a tenth part are Spanish; and the exports in wine, fruit, oil, and fish, are valued at 375,000*l.* sterling a year, on an average: but in some seasons this is by far too low a calculation. Yet with all this natural fertility, wood is scarce in most of the provinces, and fuel of that kind is daily becoming more so, as the inhabitants, except in Catalonia and Biscay, neglect the business of plantation. In some of the districts of Old and New Castile, one may travel twenty or thirty leagues without seeing a single tree. Plenty of honey too is produced, but hardly wax enough for the purposes of the church ceremonies. A great quantity of rice is

grown in Catalonia: that in Valencia is reddish, and of a disagreeable saline taste. The common sorts of grain, particularly rye, do not succeed well in several of the provinces on account of the temperature of the atmosphere being subject to sudden variations.

To the eye of a traveller, Spain offers a vast extent of unproductive tracts; but this is merely from want of cultivation: for the soil is naturally so fertile, that no other country in the world subsists so large a population in idleness; and even the wastes abound in thyme, rosemary, and lavender. Sugar-canes prosper in this country, and it could supply all Europe with saffron. Sumach, an useful article in the preparation of Morocco leather, abounds in the mountains of Grenada. The mastich-shrub, the palm, one species of cedar, the cork-tree, and even cotton and pepper, grow in several spots. The superb American aloe, which among us is one of the noblest ornaments of our gardens, comes up without cultivation, and forms entire hedges. No other country yields so great a variety of aromatic plants, and this circumstance gives their venison and mutton a delicious flavour. Mulberry-trees are so plentiful in Murcia, that the value of the silk produced annually in this province is estimated at two millions sterling; but the silk of Valencia excels this in fineness; the total annual quantity of silk produced in

Spain is about 1,800,000 pounds weight, of which 250,000 pounds only are manufactured in the country.

Few medicinal springs have been discovered in Spain: there are some salutary ones however at Grenada, Seville, and Cordova, which are hardly excelled by any in Europe. Waters of this kind are now becoming daily more the objects of attention; and when found are inclosed with walls and frequented, particularly those of Alhamer, in the province of Grenada. There are also warm baths, and mineral springs, in some of the provinces.

Spain was anciently the most populous country in Europe, but at present is comparatively little inhabited. Three causes have principally contributed to this change: —the numerous emigrations two centuries ago to the New World; the inveterate indolence of the Spaniards, who can hardly be stimulated to provide a subsistence for their families; and the multitude of devotees of both sexes, who live in a state of celibacy: for there are never above two or three children in a family destined to secular life, and all the rest are compelled to retire to a monastery. Another great cause of depopulation is to be traced to the wars with the Moors, and the expulsion of those people, as well as of the Jews, in the fifteenth century. Besides all this, the ordinary diet of

the inhabitants is unfavourable: they use spices, and particularly pepper, in great excess, their wines are strong and of a hot nature, and they drink chocolate morning and evening. Inactivity too, heavy taxes, and the poverty of the people, oppose the genial influence of the climate; but still the population has increased during the last century. In 1724, it was computed at 7,500,000 souls; in 1767, at 9,250,000 (of whom 100,000 were monks); and at present it is between ten and eleven millions.

The Spaniards, especially those of the province of Castile, are tall, with brown complexion and hair, and very expressive countenances. They are all remarkable for having their legs more slender than any other nation, and for a thin and elegant shape; the higher classes are in general pale, and the lower extremely swarthy.

The French fashion of dress is now prevalent among them, but is concealed by their national cloaks. The long swords, that used to be so famous under the name of toledoes, are at present to be seen only, with other curiosities of antiquity, in the public arsenals. Among the females, the veil assists the purposes of coquetry; and missionaries from the milliners of Paris have completely destroyed the ancient empire of fardingales and hoop-petticoats.

Not a single street or house is to be found

in all Madrid which is not decorated with a portrait or burst of the Blessed Virgin. Incredible is the annual consumption of flowers made use of in Spain for crowning the Virgin's image; incredible the number of hands which are constantly employed from morning till night in dressing her caps, turning her petticoats, and embroidering her ruffles. Every Spaniard regards the Virgin in the light of his friend, his confidante, his mistress, whose whole attention is directed to himself, and who is perpetually watching over his happiness. Hence the name of Mary hangs incessantly upon his lips, mixes in all his compliments, and forms a part of all his wishes. In speaking, in writing, his appeal is always to the Virgin, who is the guarantee of all his promises; the witness of all his transactions, It is in the name of the holy Blessed Virgin, that the ladies intrigue with their gallants, write billets-doux, send their portraits, and appoint nocturnal assignations.

The Spanish wool is universally acknowledged to be incomparably superior to any in Europe. But this wool is not of equal quality in every province of the kingdom; there are various sorts, which are distinguished by the names of the different manufactories. The first in repute is that known by the denomination of the *Segovies Léonèses;* to this class belongs the wool which bears the name of *l'Infantado de l'As-*

turie, that of the *Trois Convents de l'Escurial*, of *Don Bernardin Sanchez*, and of *Don Joseph de Vittoria*. On an average the Spaniards vend annually about 4000 *arobes* of wool, each *arobe* weighing 25 pounds. Next to the *Léonèse*, the *Segovian* stands in highest repute. This is not quite so fine as the former, and bears a variety of names, according to the districts and manufactories where it is prepared. The finest of this sort is called *Cavelieres*. The provinces which produce the best and superior sort of wool are Arragon and Valencia, Upper and Lower Andalusia, Castile and Navarre. It is a common prejudice, that the fineness and incomparable whiteness of the Spanish wool are the result of the climate; but this is an absolute error; the true cause of the perfection of the Spanish wool is to be found in the manner in which the Spaniards rear their sheep. The other nations of Europe have cultivated all the arts and sciences with success, except the art of rearing sheep. The Spaniards, on the contrary, have neglected almost every branch of science except this art. In Spain are still to be found vestiges of that simple, pastoral life, which in the earlier ages of the world, was deemed so honourable, and which rendered those, who devoted themselves to the rearing of sheep, so superlatively happy.

The Spaniards pay little or no regard to the wise precept of Moses, to refrain from burying their dead for the space of three days. In Madrid, Valladolid, Salamanca, and, indeed in almost every part of Spain, it is dangerous to indulge too much a natural propensity to long sleep; a person who oversleeps his customary hour, incurs the risk of being interred alive. Among other instances of culpable precipitation in this respect, indeed it justly deserves the name of homicide, the fate of a young, amiable, and uncommonly beautiful lady, who had married a Swiss officer in the Spanish service, and was, most unfortunately, a victim to this system of precipitation, being buried alive, and left to perish in her coffin, deserves to be particularly noticed. The corpse was afterwards at the desire of her friends, conveyed to her native country, and interred in a town in the canton of Berne. All travellers who pass near the place make a point of visiting her tomb; and numbers go considerably out of their way for this express purpose; I among others, have contemplated it with peculiar admiration and satisfaction.*

* The monument which appears to open, represents Madame Langhans, who died in childbed, after being delivered of a dead infant, in the act of raising the broken tomb; disencumbering herself from her grave-cloaths, and, whilst she fondly presses her reanimated child to her parental bosom, soaring from her late prison, to the glorious mansions of eternal bliss.

The abuses of luxury appear in all their native absurdity, in the funeral pomp and parade which characterizes the Spaniards. Upwards of a hundred carriages, five or six hundred priests and monks, with at least 2000 flambeaus, form the ordinary appendage of a common funeral. By virtue of a late edict, which a due regard to the health of the living certainly renders necessary, it is enacted, that no burials shall be permitted within the gates of Madrid. In open defiance, however, of this salutary law, the clergy continue to bury in the churches, in the view of doubling and tripling the bequests they are in the habit of receiving on these occasions, or to pay their court to the relatives of the deceased. For this purpose, grave diggers are engaged to disinter the corpse during the night, and convey it into the church. This evasion of the law is tol-

All this, and more than this, is depictured in this beautiful mausoleum. The figures seem to move, to breathe; every gesture is faithfully portrayed, every motion strongly characterized. The enraptured look of astonishment with which the risen saint eyes the near prospect of opening heaven, is marked with a strength of expression, which nothing but the inspiration of native genius could dictate. It is a genuine emblem of the resurrection; or rather it is the resurrection itself personified.

This original and spirited effusion of elevated genius, this lively conception, this *ode in marble*, if I may be allowed the expression, is the production of a young Swedish artist who, after having travelled all Europe, and in the course of his peregrination, animated, as it were, with his chisel, stone and bronze, in various shapes, was left at last to perish in a London prison, where he was confined for debt.

erted in a country, where the clergy may be said to have usurped all power and rule into their own hands.

In Spain the domestics wait at table in their jackets, and with their hair in papers. They are so filthy, that one has not the stomach to call for drink at their hands; so horribly hideous, that they strike terror into the beholders, and so deformed and stinted in their growth, that one may be tempted to conclude nature had only half finished her work in their formation.

A long retinue of valets constitute the highest luxury and ambition of a Spaniard. But no masters under heaven are so badly served by their domestics, who are constitutionally awkward, and slow to a proverb in their motions. They are sure to break whatever they lay their hands upon; they have not the smallest idea of dressing hair; and will scarcely make a bed in a couple of hours. Even then, the job is so wretchedly performed, that it is necessary to make it over again. If you send them with a letter, or a message, you must never hope to see them again, without sending other messengers in quest of them; and as to an answer, they have either never solicited one, have forgotten to wait for it, or have dropped it on the road.

Every person is indiscriminately buried in a religious habit. The men are equipped in the uniform of Capuchins; the women are

dressed like pilgrims, and young girls like nuns of the order of *Sœurs Grises*. Exclusive of the habit, the defunct is loaded with a preposterous freight of rosaries, *Agnus Deis*, beads, &c. &c. which are fastened to the neck, the arms, the feet, &c. and with which the cap, the sleeves, and pockets, of the deceased are completely stuffed.

Without these precious relics, a Spaniard would never be able to die in peace. But to obtain this desirable object, relics alone are not sufficient. More efficacious means must be employed; proper legacies and bequests must be devised to the church, and for pious purposes. Hence the moment the life of a rich Spaniard is pronounced to be in danger, two or three battalions of Monks quit their cells, and march immediately to keep guard round his bed. Nothing now is to be heard, but the terrible sounds of *hell*, *fire*, *brimstone*, *eternal torments*, *purgatory*, &c. &c. whilst the wretched patient, to escape from the flames which threaten to devour him, and to keep his tormentor, the devil, at arm's length, wastes his whole fortune in daily, weekly, monthly, and annual *obits*, and at length dies stupified and distracted, amidst an inundation of holy water, prayers, and menaces.

Few scenes can afford a richer fund of merriment, than to witness the superstitious eagerness with which the Spaniards besiege

the churches and confessionals on the eve of any grand festival. It would weary calculation to enumerate the kicks and boxes on the ear, which are exchanged among the warring devotees in less than a quarter of an hour. What completes the absurdity and ludicrous whimsicality of this diverting scene, is the arrival of some grandee, or *hidalgo*, who, escorted by a lacquey carrying a cushion for his master's accommodation, forces his way through the crowd, and, whilst the combatants are engaged in fierce contest, darts before them into the confessional, throws himself upon his knees, wisely taking care, however, not to wear them out for want of a cushion, and in this condition, repents at his ease the sins and enormities he has committed.

The ways of God are dark, inscrutable to our circumscribed vision; he governs his heaven by his own laws, and can call into his presence whomsoever he pleases. But the mussulman, who contracts a hoarseness by vociferating *Alla! Alla!* the Talapoin, who infixes needles in his own flesh, and the Marabou, who conscientiously walks but upon one leg, appear, in my judgment, to be equally deserving of a place in the celestial mansions, with the bigotted Spaniard, who beats himself with passion, and deals out blows to fight his way to the confessional, to obtain absolution.

The Spaniards are very commonly reproached with three faults: an excessive pride, manifesting itself in a gravity that becomes ridiculous; a great degree of indolence and inactivity; and a superstition equal to that which prevailed in the dark ages. This last censure they may very allowably transfer to their rulers; for no nation can become enlightened while the great object of its government is to prohibit the appearance of all books of philosophy, and the task of public instruction is committed entirely to the clergy. A nation is influenced by the example of its sovereign; and even Charles III. father of the late abdicated king, is said to have believed piously the *miracle* of the liquifaction of the blood of St. Januarius.

A preposterous anecdote is related as an example of Spanish pride: Soon after the accession of Philip V. a Castilian nobleman, having occasion to sign a public document, added after his title, the words "as noble as the king, and more so;" and on being asked the reason of this, answered, "I am a Castilian, and Philip V. is *only* a Frenchman." This sentiment preserves among them the use of pompous titles and a ceremonious style, which even the vulgar seldom abandon. But whatever ridicule may be justly attached to it, the most dignified qualities derive hence their origin. It

inspires the whole nation with principles of humanity, generosity, and virtue. Hardly ever does an instance occur of a Spanish gentleman, or even tradesman, being guilty of an act of baseness.

As to the alleged gravity of the Spaniards, it is often only a cold reserve; rather repulsive indeed, but in reality more expressive of an awkward timidity than of pride, and frequently joined to great sensibility, and goodness of heart. Besides, an acquaintance with them in their social and familiar intercourse, and a recollection of the peculiar genius which animates their romances and dramatic pieces, will at once shew, that though they may be somewhat deficient in that urbanity and affability which in some other European nations is almost dignified with the rank of a virtue, they still value and cherish a degree of cheerful frankness which delights in the enjoyments of friendship.

The charge of indolence and inactivity is applied indiscriminately to the whole nation; but an accurate analysis of their character in this view, would present numerous shades of variety. There is little resemblance, for example, between the characters of an Andalusian and a Castilian. One of our own countrymen, in thus distinguishing between the natives of the different provinces, says, the Catalans seem to possess the greatest portion of activity and liveliness, and to be

the readiest at business in general; but the Valencians, on the contrary, are circumspect and reserved, and from their more tranquil habits, are fitter for the exclusive pursuit of agriculture: they are also more disposed than the former to cautious and distant manners. The Andalusians are the most talkative and vainest of all the Spaniards. The natives of the two Castiles have a degree of masculine openness of temper which abhors every appearance of artifice or cunning: those of New Castile are perhaps less industrious than any of their countrymen; but the Old Castilians are laborious, and preserve in a high degree the simplicity of their ancient habits; neither of these classes are deficient in strength, courage, or fortitude. The character of the people of Arragon is a compound of the Castilian and the Catalan, but in which the former predominates. The Biscayans are acute, diligent, sprightly, passionate, and impatient of constraint: their manners indeed are more like those of republicans than of the subjects of an absolute monarchy. The Galicians are a hardy race, inured to toil, and found in every part of the kingdom, earning their subsistence by the sweat of their brow. These remarks shew how unjustly general aspersions have been thrown on the Spaniards. Even a late French writer has rather unguardedly confessed, that a change in the circumstances

(especially the political circumstances) of this brave and generous nation, would alone be sufficient to make it at once reassume an eminent rank among the nations of Europe. "It is at present," adds he, "not a dead but a sleeping lion."

Dancing is the favourite diversion of the Spaniards; and it is not uncommon to see the daughter, mother, and grandmother, engaged together in this exercise. The fandango is universally practised among them; and a German traveller says that if it were possible to take a bird's-eye view of the whole kingdom immediately after sun-set, almost all the inhabitants, both young and old, would be seen performing this dance.

There is hardly a single town of any consideration in Spain that does not contain a theatre; but most of the dramatic performances are ridiculous and insipid bombast. The actors are intolerable; and the prompter, who stands below the stage, is sometimes obliged to put up his head through a trap door, and read whole speeches loud enough to be heard by the whole house.

The catholic religion is not merely the established, but the only legally tolerated, religion in Spain; and the nation has ever maintained with unshaken firmness their attachment to *the faith*: The king bears the title of His Catholic Majesty. Yet the ardent zeal which distinguished their ancestors

from every other catholic people, has lost much of its activity, and even begins to disappear. Within a few years the power of the clergy has been considerably diminished; and a royal edict forbidding the convents to receive noviciates without express permission, was evidently designed to reduce the extent of the religious orders.

The Inquisition, that disgrace to humanity, owes its origin to the wars against the Albigenses, in the year 1200. It was founded by pope Innocent the third, and was at first only a kind of military commission for the purpose of condemning those heretics. The more firm establishment which it afterward obtained in Spain, was caused by the furious zeal of a dominican monk named Torquemada, who was confessor to Queen Isabella: this man put to death six thousand persons by flames and the rack, and was rewarded with a cardinal's hat. Pope Sixtus the Fourth confirmed the inquisition by a bull in the year 1479. The two following historical anecdotes will shew the terrible degree of power formerly possessed by this famous tribunal: Charles the Fifth having bequeathed no legacy to *the church*, and being thought also to have not acted with sufficient vigour against the Lutherans, these two charges were formally brought forward after his death, and made the ground of condemning as heretics his confessor, his spiritual di-

rector, (though archbishop of Toledo,) and a majority of the monks in the convent to which he had retired when he resigned the crown. Philip the Third, being present at an *auto da fé* (or public execution of heretics) at which two monks were burnt for having some new opinions in religion, expressed some pity for them; on which account the grand inquisitor, when informed of the circumstance, quarrelled openly with him, and would not be reconciled till he had received a cupful of the King's blood, which he then caused to be burnt by the executioner. The last *auto da fé* at Madrid was in the year 1763, but a woman was burnt for a sorcery at Seville in 1780. The inquisition is at present resorted to only in political cases; and foreign protestants who conduct themselves quietly have not only nothing to fear from it, but can even obtain redress from its authority when they are molested on account of their religion, its watchful superintendance is now transferred from persons, exclusively to books; and this bigoted censorship of course prevents the nation from emerging from the depth of ignorance and superstition. In the province of Catalonia the implicit reliance of the people on the intercession of saints, is frequently a cause of serious calamities. The church of Montserrat contains several folio volumes recording the miracles performed by the Virgin. This credu-

lity produces a degree of presumption which produces the ruin of many commercial families. During the American war, all the insurance companies had their favourite celestial patrons; two of the principal of which were St. Ramon of Pennaforte, and Our Lady of Mercy. The holy patron was actually enrolled in the lists of members, and was admitted to a share in the profits; and in this respect the companies kept their accounts with the utmost correctness, convinced that with so great a name in their firm they could not fail of seeing their affairs attain a high degree of prosperity.—These notions impelled them to enterprises of extraordinary temerity; and in the year 1779 they took insurances at fifty *per cent.* on French East Indiamen, which neither the English nor Dutch would underwrite at any premium, and most of which had already been brought into English ports. The unavoidable consequence was, that every one of the companies that had pursued this course were ruined: yet the very same superstition still prevails.

The *commerce* of Spain may be divided into three branches: the exportation of the productions of its European territory; of those of its South American dominions; and its importations from different countries of Europe. The principal objects furnished by Spain itself to the other European nations

are wool, wine, oil, salt, kali, and some other articles of natural produce. Its wool, which is chiefly shipped at the port of Bilboa, is divided by the merchants into seven classes, according to its quality. The Leonese, which holds the first rank, mostly comes from the neighbourhood of Segovia; and is supplied by the flocks which in summer graze the mountains of the province of Leon, and in winter the plains of Estramadura. The peculiar character of this wool is, a dazzling whiteness or a beautiful flesh colour; and the degree in which it is found curled (or frizzled as it were,) proves both its fineness and its strength. The second sort, called fine Segovian wool is of a coarser thread than the former, but less soft and substantial, and accordingly not so much curled: in colour they are alike. The flocks from which this is taken, pass the summer about Segovia. The third kind is called regular Segovian, and furnished by the flocks which pass the whole year in the province of Old Castile: that of Pennarnada is remarkable for a dead-white colour which is occasioned by the sheep's rolling in the ashes of the stubble that has been burnt in the fields. The wool of Burgos and of Buitrago, which constitutes the fourth class, is cut from flocks that pass the winter in Estramadura: it is of a rose-colour, but some-

ulated; the second is of an iron or slate colour, but in other respects does not differ from the white; and the variation of colour is also the only peculiar characteristic of the third sort. There is a fourth kind, as brilliant and transparent as crystal, which is used, as well as the others, for the purpose of preserving meat, but which is the genuine *sal-gem* of the dyers: it is found, blue, green, orange, red, and of some other tints, but all these varieties appear white when pounded. These four descriptions of salt are met with, and ranged alternately in layers, nearly as common stones are in the quarries. There is a great demand for them: the sal-gem is cut like crystal, and is often shaped into objects of curiosity or devotion; as beads, small vases, and caskets. Sometimes two figures are engraved on it, in the same manner as on a courelian and other precious stones.

The commerce of Spain with its colonies is mostly in the hands of other countries; as is particularly apparent at Cadiz, the principal mart of that traffic. An eminent writer on affairs of trade observes, that the different nations of Europe send their merchandise to this city, where they embark it for South America in Spanish vessels, and under the name of Spanish factors, but in reality on their own account. The merchants of all these nations have agents and correspondents

in that city, and their consuls make a considerable figure there. Cadiz contains large magazines, in which the treasures from Spanish America are deposited. The exports of internal produce to that part of the world are very trifling; but the duty on the foreign property exported would form a large accession to the revenue, and consequently be a heavy drawback on the profits of the real proprietors and their agents, were it not eluded by a multitude of fraudulent artifices. The principal articles shipped at Cadiz for the colonies, consist of linen of all kinds (of either Spanish, French, Irish, Flemish, or especially Silesian manufacture), cloth and woolen stuffs, silk, wine, brandy, oil, paper, quills, gun-flints, marble, bar-iron, (next in importance to linen), nails, steel, wire, white-lead, wax, pepper, and cinnamon: these are brought to this port from other European countries; and many manufactures indeed, particularly those of Silesia, could not be continued if deprived of such a market. A great part of the wealth brought annually by the plate-flotillas from Peru and Mexico, thus passes into the hands of foreigners, either in the shape of payment for those cargoes, or of interest for capitals advanced to Spanish traders.

In the course of eleven years (from 1767 to 1778) there were imported into Spain 103,889,652 piastres, coined in South A-

merica ; and it is computed that during the same period, the contraband exportation of the same coin from the colonies may have amounted to the number of eighty-three millions, which never passed through the mother country. In the year 1791, the importation from Mexico and Peru amounted to twenty-two millions of piastres.

Statement of the commerce of Spanish America with the mother country, in the year 1788.

Ports.	Value of Spanish cargoes exported to America.	Value of foreign cargoes exported to America.	Value of returns from America.
	Reals.	Reals.	Reals.
Seville	3,811,039	573,688	129,970
Cadiz	91,252,427	121,533,827	635,315,832
Malaga	12,752,045	1,347,354	11,869,524
Barcelona	29,688,392	2,083,317	35,446,496
Corunna	9,993,537		81,625,588
St. Sebastian	364,547	3,179,534	11,355,430
Alfaques de Tortosa	864,384	14,404	245,235
St. Ander	5,082,866	11,277,950	26,295,925
Gyon	61,775	1,131,992	642,091
Alicant	542,676	32,600	635,110
Palma	598,875		274,095
The Canaries	2,210,576	1,319,624	2,863,437
Total	158,223,039	142,494,290	804,693,733

Thus the whole exportation to America in that year amounted to upwards of three hundred millions of reals (6,891,485*l.* sterling;) and the returns to Europe, to above eight hundred millions (18,440,898*l.* :) the latter producing a balance of 11,549,454*l.* sterling!

The regulations established in 1778 threw open this branch of commerce to the whole nation, under some restrictions; and have contributed greatly to increase its prosperity. In that year the amount of Spanish merchandise exported to the colonies was 28,636,619 reals; and of foreign property, 46,278,342 reals; making a total of 74,915,962 reals, (1,716,824*l.* sterling.) The returns were of the value only of 74,558,292 reals, (1,708,627*l.*) Hence, during the period between 1778 and 1788, the exports had increased in a *four-fold*, and the returns in a *ten-fold* proportion. The additional revenue resulting from this improvement was as follows:

	Pounds sterling.
Amount of the customs on exports and imports in 1778	154,946
Ditto in 1788	1,270,888
Increase in ten years . .	1,115,942

or in above a *seven-fold* proportion.

Similar causes to those which keep the colonial commerce in a state of dependence on fo-

reigners, operate in paralysing the commerce of the interior of the kingdom. The wretched condition of the highways long rendered all communication of this kind nearly impracticable; while the extreme uncleanliness of the inns, and a want of public conveyances, discouraged travelling. The government has at last felt the national disgrace of such a state of things, and has begun to remedy it; and the roads in the provinces of Biscay and Navarre, in the neighbourhood of Madrid, between that capital and Cadiz, and between Aranjuez and Valencia, have now received a high degree of improvement. An undertaking however that seems likely to produce a still more powerful effect in advancing internal commerce, is the formation of several fine canals: that of Arragon is equal to any thing of the kind in existence. A project is also in agitation for establishing an uniformity of coins, weights, and measures, throughout the kingdom. At present, the internal commerce is carried on by the primitive but incompetent medium of an exchange of commodities between the different provinces; chiefly of rice, oil, and corn: the fine mules and asses of the country are employed in this laborious traffic.

From what has been said however of the general unfitness or disinclination of the Spaniards for trade, an exception must be made with respect to those of Catalonia. If the

whole country possessed the same spirit of activity and industry as the people of this province, Spain would soon rise to the brilliant and pre-eminent rank which her advantageous position, and territorial riches, ought to have obtained for her long since among commercial nations. Of the number of vessels which annually enter the port of Barcelona (between nine hundred and a thousand), from three hundred to three hundred and fifty belong to the inhabitants of that city; but at Malaga, Cadiz, or Alicant, the proportion is far less favourable.

A thin population, and a deficiency of industry, are circumstances so strictly connected, that it is not easy to determine which of them is the cause and which the effect. Yet it appears clear in the present case, that the expulsion of the Moors and the Jews in the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, by removing the most active part of the people, is what has operated ever since in preventing the manufactures of Spain from keeping pace with those of the rest of Europe. Spain might make all the other nations of Europe tributary to her, by the wool manufactured within her own dominions; but the only good manufacteries in this line are those established in the new colonies and at Segovia. Five and twenty years ago neither the process of fusting nor of dying was well understood among them.

While the government is thus negligent of the particular branch of industry which would be the most natural to the country, it expends considerable sums in forming establishments which are brilliant indeed but of doubtful utility: of this description are the manufactory of porcelain at Buen-Retiro, and that of plate-glass at St. Ildefonso; which latter is carried to a very high degree of perfection.

The Spanish monarchy is in every sense absolute, but the government is exercised by various tribunals. The power of the aristocracy has of late years been greatly abridged, chiefly by the influence of the Prince of the Peace, and the house of *Medina Celi*, which used every year to send a deputation to the King to reserve its right to the throne, finds it necessary now to exercise that privilege in secret. In order to diminish the local influence of the grandees, they have been obliged, by an order of the court, to reside chiefly at Madrid. As part of the same system, the *Cortes*, or supreme councils, which had an influence greater than the parliament of England, have been for some years abolished. A system of economy is to be traced in all the departments of the government, and many great offices are suffered to remain vacant. It is however asserted by his enemies, that the emolument of these offices are enjoyed by the *Favourite*, who has been

declared by the King to be an integral part of the royal family, and whose obscure descent has been attempted to be veiled by tracing his ancestors to the Visigoths.

The privy council, which prepares business and arranges papers for the council of state, or the *Junta*, is composed of a number of nobles and grandees, nominated by the King.

The Junta itself (a sort of cabinet council), consists of the first secretary of state, and of three or four other ministers, who direct every thing according to the will of the King, or rather of the *Favourite*.

A council of war takes cognizance of the army, and of whatever regards military affairs.

The council of Castile is the superior legal tribunal of the King's dominions at home and abroad.

There are also courts of law, or as they are called in Spain, *courts of royal audience*, in Galicia, at Seville, at Majorca, in the Canaries, at Saragossa, at Valencia, and Barcelona.

There are also inferior tribunals, for deciding in matters of police, revenue, and private litigation.

Spanish America is under the government of viceroys, and other magistrates, appointed in Spain, and they enjoy absolute authority in their respective districts. The

council of the Indies is composed of a governor, four secretaries, and twenty-two other members, who reside in Spain. To them are made all appeals relative to American affairs, and they are well qualified to decide, being generally ex-viceroys, or ex-magistrates, from America. The viceroyalties of Peru and Mexico are deemed too important to be entrusted to the same person more than three years, in which time, however, they amass large fortunes.

In ecclesiastical matters the King is supreme. He nominates all archbishops and bishops, and even to most of the smaller benefices. He taxes their revenues, and no papal bull can be published without his approbation.

The revenues of the crown amount to five, and, according to some, to seven millions sterling, per annum. Those derived from America, in addition, are immense, but a small portion of them reaches Spain. The King has nominally one-fifth of the produce of the mines, though scarcely any part of it enters his coffers. In time of war, and in pressing exigencies, he sequesters the greatest part of the treasures of America belonging to his subjects, to whom, however, they are returned with interest. The Spanish finances are badly regulated, and the public debt amounts to a prodigious sum.

The Spanish army exists chiefly on paper.

By the official lists it ought, in 1789, to have consisted of 103,437 men; and in 1794, of 114,000; but I do not believe that at present it exceeds 80,000. In Spain there exists an institution worthy of being imitated in the British Islands, on the coasts of which so many hundreds of ships, and so many thousands of their brave mariners annually perish, chiefly for want of assistance on the spot. Round the whole coast of Spain are stationed sentries from mile to mile, with lights and apparatus, by means of which, assistance may be afforded to shipwrecked mariners, and an alarm spread on every side in case of invasion. In Great Britain this would be a useful provision for superannuated sailors and soldiers, about three thousand of whom would be competent to this service; and the houses requisite for their accommodation would not cost more than 100,000*l.* and the whole annual expense could not exceed that sum, while they would be a means of saving millions of property, and thousands of valuable lives every year.

In 1789, the Spanish navy consisted of 58 ships of the line, and 230 of other sizes, distributed into three departments, that of Cadiz, that of Carthagena, and that of Ferrol.

It may not be improper before I conclude these details, to give a short account of the different great divisions of the kingdom.

New Castile includes the provinces of Madrid, Toledo, Guadalaxara, Cuença, and La Mancha. It produces abundance of corn and wine. Its population is 1,080,000; viz. the province of Madrid, 260,000; Toledo, 334,000; Guadalaxara, 114,000; Cuença, 114,000 and La Mancha, 206,0*i. e.* 200,00 inhabitants to a square league. Madrid alone contains 150,000 inhabitants, 7,000 houses, 18 parish churches, 62 convents, and 10 academies.

Andalusia includes the kingdom of Seville, and the provinces of Cordova and Jaen. It produces exquisite fruits and wines, oil, corn, silk, cotton, cattle, and horses. Its population is 1,108,000, of which the kingdom of Seville contains 750,000, the city of Seville, 90,000, and Cadiz, 66,000. Cordova contains 266,000 inhabitants, and its city 32,000. Jaen contains about 90,000 inhabitants, and the city of Jaen about 27,000 of that number.

Grenada contains 660,000 inhabitants, and the city of Grenada 52,000. It is fertile in wine, pomegranates, (a corruption of *pomme de granade*) olives, lemons, oranges, raisins, and other fruits. Malaga, in this kingdom, contains 40,000 inhabitants.

Murcia produces wine, exquisite fruits, silk, honey, rice, vegetables, soda, &c. and contains 340,000 inhabitants, of which Carthagena comprehends 29,000.

Valencia, commonly called the Garden of Spain, is famous for the richness of its soil, and the value of its productions in silk, hemp, flax, wool, oil, rice, wine, raisins, figs, dates, &c. Its annual produce of silk alone is worth a million and a half sterling. Its population is about 900,000, of which the city of Valencia contains 80,000. Alicant, also in this province contains 20,000.

Majorca, comprehending the Balearic islands, Majorca, Minorca, &c. The population of Majorca is about 135,000, and of Minorca 30,000.

Catalonia contains 814,000 inhabitants, and abounds in grass, rice, corn, vegetables, oil, flax, and hemp. Barcelona, in this principality contains nearly 100,000 inhabitants.

Arragon contains 624,000 inhabitants, and is fertile for the most part in corn, wine, oil, and fruits. Saragossa, one of the cities of this kingdom, contains 36,000 inhabitants.

Navarre abounds in wine, oil, corn, cattle, and iron. Pampeluna, its chief city, contains 11,000 inhabitants.

Biscay, or in Spanish *Vizcaya*, contains the provinces of Guipuscoa and Dalava called the Vasconnas; their population is about 450,000, and the chief city, Bilboa, contains about 12,000 souls.

Old Castile contains the provinces of Burgos, Soria, Segovia, Avila, and Montana, of which Burgos contains 400,000 inhabitants;

Soria 170,000; Segovia 170,000; and Avila 115,000; and the principal cities Burgos contains 10,000, and Segovia 10,000.

Leon is divided into six provinces; Leon, Palencia, Toro, Xamoro, Valladolid and Salamanca. It produces the fine Spanish wools. Leon contains 250,000 inhabitants; Toro 150,000; Valladolid 200,000; Palencia 112,000; Xamora 74,000, and Salamanca 210,000, in which the city of Valladolid contains 30,000 inhabitants, and Salamanca 15,000.

Asturias contains about 400,000 inhabitants, and is filled with mountains covered with forests, which are thinly peopled by a race, brave, and remarkable for their industry, the descendants of the ancients Goths, this part of Spain having never been conquered by the Moors. Oviedo, its principality contains about 8,000 inhabitants.

Gallicia contains 1,354,000 inhabitants, and is considered as the best peopled of any part of Europe, and it furnishes labourers for all parts of Spain. It produces wine, and affords fine pasturage. Its principal cities, are Corunna and Ferrol, which last contains 20,000 inhabitants.

Estremadura produces wheat, wine, and fruits, and contain 420,000 inhabitants. Its chief cities are Badajoz and Placentia, each containing 6,000 inhabitants.

In 1768 the Spanish government took a census, which there was every reason to think defective, because, in the first place, no great pains had been bestowed to procure correct returns; and in the second, the people, under the erroneous persuasion that its object was the imposition of some new tax upon houses, endeavoured to deceive the persons employed in this business, by false statements. From these circumstances, the enumeration produced no more than 9,159,999 souls; whereas that of 1787, taken with greater accuracy on the one hand, and with greater security on the other, gave a result of 10,268,150, making a balance of 1,108,151 in favour of the latter.

The strictness of the government on this occasion, produced differences still more extraordinary. The returns of 1787 exhibited the following diminution in the subjoined classes:

Religious of both sexes	11,044
Ecclesiastics, or persons belonging to the clergy	17,213
Persons attached to the monastic orders .	6,329
Hidalgos or nobles	242,205

forming a total of 277,291 persons, who, by making false statements, were ranged among the privileged classes, and thus exempted from personal imposts.

In 1768 the enumeration was taken by dioceses; in 1787 by governments or pro-

vinces. The difference of the principal results will appear more striking from the following comparison:

	Results of the Enumeration of 1768.	Results of that of 1787.
Bachelors and widowers	2,809,069	3,162,007
Unmarried females and widows	2,911,858	3,215,482
Married persons of both sexes	3,439,072	3,891,661
Total	9,159,999	10,269,130
Cities, towns, and villages	16,427	18,716
Parishes	18,106	18,972
Livings, vicarages, &c.	51,048	42,707
Convents for men	2,004	2,019
Nunneries	1,026	1,048
Monks	55,453	57,515
Nuns	27,665	24,559
Persons belonging to the clergy	25,248	16,376
Syndics of religious orders	8,552	4,127
Persons belonging to the military tribunal	89,393	77,844
Persons receiving salaries from the king	27,577	36,465
Dependents on the *croisade*	4,248	1,844
Dependents on the inquisition	2,645	2,705
Hidalgos or nobles	722,794	480,589

By this census, the proportion of the numbers of persons employed in different professions was ascertained. There were found to be 145 cities, 4572 towns, 12,732 villa-

ges, 907,197 husbandmen, 964,571 day-labourers, 270,989 artisans, 280,094 domestics, 50,992 students, 39,750 manufacturers.

On this occasion, the respective population of each of the provinces was shewn; and what had before been only matter of conjecture, was now ascertained to be a fact, namely, that the resources afforded by the vicinity of the sea, and perhaps also the quality of the food supplied by that vicinity, are sufficient, provided those two circumstances are accompanied by a fertile soil, to counterbalance the mischiefs of a vicious administration. Gallicia, for instance, more than half of which is in the hands of the clergy, a province without canals, without navigable rivers, almost without roads, without any other branch of industry than its cloth manufactures, its navigation, and fisheries; but favoured with a soil capable of rearing every kind of vegetable production, encompassed on two sides by the sea, and, above all, exempt from that destructive scourge the *mesta*—is beyond comparison the most populous province of Spain, though by no means the most extensive. In 1787, it was found to comprehend 1,345,803 persons; while Catalonia, which far surpasses it in arts, manufactures, and extent, contained only 814,412; Arragon, no more than 623,308; and lastly, Estremadura, with a

surface exceeding that of Gallicia by one-fourth, reckoned scarcely 417,000 souls.

Mr. Hoppensack, superintendant of the Spanish mines, published, in 1796, two memoirs on the subject of these mines, containing some interesting matter. It is well known that the Romans used to procure a considerable quantity of gold from Spain; and they also obtained iron, silver, and copper. Mr. Hoppensack found in an ancient mine a piece of impure copper, containing more than a tenth part of its weight of silver, vitreous silver ore with native silver, and ponderous spar with red silver ore. In the times of the Goths and Saracens these mines were neglected, so that only small quantities of lead and copper were obtained from them: and they are still neglected, the quicksilver mines alone occupying the public attention. The famous counts Fugger, in 1551, obtained the privilege of working the silver mine of Guadaleaval, anciently occupied by the Carthaginians. They found it very rich, so that it had for some years yielded to the King annually twenty-four millions of reals as his fifth. They continued to work it for thirty years, which was the period of their grant, and afterwards it fell into the hands of a French company. In 1775 Mr. Hoppensack had the superintendance of it; but the works were in a ruinous state, and but little ore was left. He proposed to abandon the

old works, and sink new ones; but this was deemed too hazardous, and in 1779 the company was broken up.

The mountains of Guadaleaval are composed of argillaceous schist with mica. The veins in which the metal is found are commonly ponderous spar, quartz, and micaceous sand.

There is found at Teruel, in a gangue of quartz and white feldspar, grey copper ore, cupreous pyrites, grey silver ore, oxyd of copper in crystals, sulphuret of antimony, and cinnabar; and on account of this last, the Spanish government take the working of it in their own hands.

The only tin mines that are worked are in Gallicia. The ore is in crystals running through a bed of granite. One of these crystals was found which weighed twenty-five pounds.

The lead mines have been worked with great diligence ever since the expulsion of the Moors. The potters procure from them compact galena, called by them *alcohol*. The lead ore of Linares, which is the richest, lies in a bed of granite.

The exploitation of iron mines is chiefly carried on in the province of Biscay.

Antimony is found in Castile and in Gallicia.

Fifty years ago a rich vein of cobalt was found in the valley of Gistain, in the Pyre-

nees, and yielded a large quantity of metal, which was sent into Swabia.

In 1780, the author of this memoir worked a vein of steel-grained cobalt ore, and in a short time collected upwards of 300 quintals. A manufacture of smalt was in consequence established at Banneras de Lucho, which was soon given up.

At Serveto, in the same neighbourhood, there is a brine spring and a pit of rock salt.

Independently of the Pyrenees, there are four distinct chains of mountains in the kingdom of Spain; namely, the Santillanas, which arise in Gallicia, and stretch across the province of Leon as far as Castile and Navarre; the Urbians, which running successively along Estremadura, Leon, and New and Old Castile, terminate in Arragon; the Sierra Morena chain, which takes its rise in Portugal, and stretches between Estremadura and Andalusia; and lastly, the Grenada ridge. Of all these, the Sierra Morena mountains are by far the richest in minerals. On their southern side there are entire hills of a fine puddingstone mixed with a red marl.

A person of the name of Ferreti, took up an ancient copper mine, formerly worked by the Romans, near the town of Molina, in the kingdom of Arragon. The gangue was a compact limestone. He one day broke into large vaults, which might have been the

residence of the slaves employed in the works. The roof was entirely lined with malachite and crystals of azure. Twenty quintals were collected on the spot, and were principally sold in pieces.

Below Azuago, there are coal mines which supply the furnaces at Almaden.

There is a spring near Aranjuez which contains Glauber's salt; and in the duchy of Minazelli the mountain is almost entirely composed of rock-salt.

Most of the provinces in Spain contain beds of coal, but they are no where worked except in Catalonia.

The Grenada mountains abound with beautiful masses of native sulphur. All the heights in the neighbourhood of Cadiz are full of swinestone, mixed with native sulphur; but it is not permitted to build upon them, as all the sulphur, salt, and lead, are sold on the King's account.

At Alcanis, in Arragon, there are manufactories of alum and sulphate of iron.

In the bishopric of Oviedo there is a great quantity of agate wrought into buttons.

Calamine is extracted near Alcaras.

At Villa Deprado the ancient galleries are still pursued, and they yield ferruginous garnets and emery.

On the whole, we may look upon Spain to be a country abundantly favoured by na-

ture with mineral riches, but they have been hitherto much neglected.

The annual product is as follows:

16,000 quintals of mercury.
250 ——— of copper.
3100 ——— of lead.
175,000 ——— of iron.
25,000 ——— of vitriol *(sulphate of iron.)*.
14,000 ——— of alum.
750 ——— of sulphur.

Mines of gold and silver yet remain to be worked; many veins are found in Estramadura, and among the mountains of Sierra Morena.

The second part of this memoir treats of the quicksilver mines of Almaden. It is proved from the testimony of Pliny, that they have been worked for upwards of 2287 years, and furnished the vermillion that was sent to Rome in form of powder. The country around the town of Almaden principally consists of a grey argillaceous schist, mixed with white calcareous particles, and with black bituminous schist. There are seven principal veins which cross this argillaceous schist; their breadth is from two to three toises, and they are composed of quartz rich in cinnibar. These veins sometimes approach and cross each other, sometimes they are cut by a slip of the above-mentioned bituminous schist. They dip to a very considerable depth, and as yet they have

only been followed as low as 100 fathoms.

At some leagues distant from Almaden there are three other establishments for the extraction of mercury from the ore; they are at Almadenejos, Gualdalperal, and Las Cuebas; these are dependencies on Almaden, and agree with the latter in all the principal operations.

Since the year 1524, there has been procured from this mine about fifteen hundred thousand quintals of mercury: the clear annual produce is sometimes as high as twenty thousand quintals, exclusive of about sixty quintals sent every year to Seville, either in the form of vermillion or in sealing-wax, and which contains about 0.70 of mercury. These works employ about a thousand workmen.

The literature of Spain and Portugal has not been much attended to in England. The best Italian poets were naturalized in England, during the reigns of Elizabeth and James; at that time Spain was in the meridian of its glory, and it might have been imagined, that the fame of Lope de Vega would have reached this island. I believe however that, except Fanshaw's version of the Lusiad, no poetical translation, from either the Spanish or Portuguese, appeared in England, till the editor of "The Reliques of Ancient Poetry," excited some curiosity in the public mind by the beautiful ballad,

Rio verde, rio verde. Mr. Mickle's Lusiad, and Mr. Hayley's Account of the Araucana, soon followed; the former of which has, perhaps, exceeded the original; and the latter occasioned regret in every reader, that the sketch has never been filled up. Here our acquaintance with Spanish and Portuguese poetry has stopped. We have indeed often heard of Lope de Vega, and Mr. Hayley has mentioned the Ulysses of Gabriel Pereira de Castro, and the Malaca Conquistada de Francisco de Sa de Menezes, as two poems which the Portuguese themselves esteem only inferior to the Lusiad of their great Camoens; we have heard their names indeed, but with their merit the English reader is utterly unacquainted.*

The prose writers of these countries (except the great Cervantes) are, for obvious reasons, less valuable than their poets. Learning has never flourished enough in either of the kingdoms, to form the taste of the inhabitants; and genius and imagination will not atone for the want of taste and erudition in a prose writer.

Spain and Portugal had reached the meridian of their glory, while the arts were yet in their infancy. Individual genius will be found then to have flourished most when the

* Since these observations were written, Lord Holland has favoured the public with some account of Lope de Vega.

community shall have been most flourishing; Athens was most glorious when Sophocles and Euripides succeeded the aged Æschylus; and Ovid, Horace, and Virgil, wrote at the time when Augustus sent forth his decree that all the world should be taxed. Uniform experience will attest the truth of the observation. Why this sympathy should exist, I know not; but poetical genius is certainly a barometer that rises or falls according to the state of the political atmosphere. Boscan and Garcillasso de la Vega, and Diego de Mendoza, fought and conquered for their country, under Charles the Fifth, and their spirits partook of the elevation they had assisted her to obtain; and they were followed in Portugal by Francisco de Sa de Miranda, Antonio Ferreira, and Pedro de Andrade Caminha.

It may perhaps raise a smile to assert, that the poetry of Spain was purified and corrected by introducing an Italian taste into the country. At this period, however, such a revolution in literature was effected by such means. Marino corrupted the taste of Italy, and Spain soon followed the fascinating faults. Always fond of the extravagant, and mistaken hyperbolism for grandeur, quaintness for wit, and the obscure for the sublime, the Spaniards readily fell in with the fashion of the day; and the satire of Cervantes proved powerless here. The decline of the empire

quickly succeeded, and Lope de Vega lived to witness the defeat of that Armada, which, with more extravagance and less genius than he usually displayed, he had commanded "to go forth and burn the world."

Spain has never recovered herself since the ruinous reign of Philip the Second. Not content with oppressing the Spaniards by the inquisition, he made them the instrument of oppression abroad; there indeed he failed; but though the liberty of Holland was established, the glory of Spain was destroyed. We may be allowed to regret, that liberty and slavery should be so ill-disposed, that a people the most deserving of freedom, should be degraded under the vilest despotism, while the most worthless race in Europe are free: the Spanish character is capable of all improvement; but to degrade the Dutch would be impossible.

Affiliated with Spain, Portugal partook of its decline. She shook off her chains indeed, but "the iron had entered her soul;" and that nation which once excited the wonder, and deserved the admiration of the world, became contemptible to the rest of Europe, and terrible only to its subjects. He who entertains liberal sentiments, if he be obliged to submit his productions to the scrutiny of the inquisition, will write with timidity; and it may safely be asserted, that he who writes timidly, cannot write well. To look

for the bold sublimity of genius where men are thus depressed, were as rational as to chain a race-horse, and expect him to win the race.

Thus has the tyranny of superstition co-operated with the decline of the country, to check the progress of literature in Spain and Portugal. Yet, during what may be called their Augustan age, such was accomplished. The applause of Cervantes should excite some attention to the productions of the two Leonardos; he who admires the Lusiad of Camoens, may wish to form some acquaintance with his epistles and sonnets; and he who has read the Visions of Quevedo, will readily believe, that much genius must exist in the six quarto volumes of the works of this excellent author.

Spain has been wonderfully prolific in poets. In the Parnaso Espanol, is given a list of such only as are mentioned by their more celebrated authors; and this amounts to the astonishing number of 571, which the editor says is not a third part of the poets with whom the public are acquainted. The number in Portugal are strangely disproportionate; for father Joaon Bautista de Castro, in his Mappe de Portugal, enumerates only sixty-two epic and lyric writers, and fifteen comic ones. But it is probable that the greater part of the bards whose names swell the Spanish list, are remembered no where

else, when in the Portuguese account, common sense may for once have checked the vanity so characteristic of the nation.

Sir John Dillon and Mr. Southey's Letters on the Origin and Progress of poetry in Spain, will give the reader a good general view of the subject. It did not enter into Sir John's plan to enlarge on the works of any particular author, or give specimens to the English readers: the few specimens that he has printed are untranslated, and selected chiefly to shew their different metres.

The Spaniards call their nine most favourite authors, the nine Spanish muses: they are—Garcilaso de la Vega; Don Esteban de Villegas; Quevedo, count Bernardino de Rebolledo; Lupercio Leonardo de Argensola, and his brother Bartolome; father Luis de Leon: Lope de Vega; and Don Francisco de Borja y Aragon, prince of Esquilache: many of equal merit are excluded from the list, and perhaps some of superior.

CHAP. IX.

Road to Toledo.—The City.—Fonda.—Lorenzana.—Buildings.—Eve of St. Peter.—Spanish Organs.—Treasures.—Productions of the Province of Toledo.—Climate.—Travelling.—Roads.—Post-horses.—Lisbon.—Cintra.

June 26.

At six o'clock in the evening I set forth on my way to Toledo. The horse which was brought for me would probably have been thought unworthy of a piccador at a bull-fight, and my servant was obliged to bestride another miserable Rosinante with a sore back. On leaving the gates of Madrid a traveller finds himself as completely in the country, as if he were an hundred leagues from the metropolis. I crossed the Manzanares by the Puente de Toledo, which is the handsomest of the bridges which lead to the city: in passing forwards, I was convinced of the truth of an observation which, I believe, is made by Sir John Dillon, that the land around Madrid, notwithstanding its desert appearance, is almost every where in cultivation; and the city is in fact surrounded by a number of villages, which are concealed from the eye by being generally built in hollow places. The great road from

Madrid to Toledo, is through Aranjuez, a distance of about fifteen leagues. I proceeded by a shorter route, across the country, of twelve leagues, which is equal to fifty English miles. At ten o'clock we put up in the venta de Terajon, which afforded me some bad wine and water, and a most suspicious bed.

June 27.

After tossing uncomfortably for a few hours, on a mattress which sent forth its active myriads to murder sleep, I was called about two o'clock, and soon after proceeded on my journey. A few leagues from Terajon, I entered a small town through a perfect, and the first Moorish arch I have seen in Spain. Another village afforded some chocolate for breakfast, but the increasing heat warned me to hasten forwards, as five leagues yet remained. The country now began to get richer, though entirely destitute of trees: when the day cleared, the hills behind Toledo discovered themselves, and I was prepared to admire the romantic situation in which the city is placed. This, however, is not seen to advantage in this approach; but how shall I describe my disappointment at the mean and miserable appearance of the city itself! Where are the marks of dignity or splendour? Where are the traces of a royal court, and a proud nobility? Not a vestige of these is to be

discerned in a dreary assemblage of plaister houses, tenanted by monks and beggars.

The situation is not unlike that of Durham, and the full blue river which flows round it, and the green meadows sprinkled with trees on its banks, are very delightful to the eye. At half past eleven I entered the Fonda, a neat and extensive inn, erected by the celebrated Lorenzana, to draw people to Toledo, to visit its antiquities.

This great man, who has been done justice to in the work of Bourgoing, was preferred from the archbishopric of Mexico to the primacy of Spain, and has left the traces of his wisdom and his charity in every part of this desolate city:—he reformed the discipline of the cathedral; he rebuilt and reorganized the university; erected on a more extensive scale and in a more healthy situation, the hospital for lunatics; gave to the public the best inn in Spain; and filled the useless Alcazar with the industry of a silk manufactory. From this station, so peculiarly fitted to his disposition, and so ennobled by his virtues, he has at length been dismissed, to make room for the nephew of the King and brother-in-law of the prince of peace; a youth about twenty-four years of age, who at present monopolizes the sees of Toledo and Seville, while their former prelates are banished to Rome, where they receive pensions from the King of Spain.—I

have been assured of the good conduct of the juvenile prelate, but I find the inhabitants of Toledo are by no means content: he lives always with the court, and comes to the city merely on the great festivals of the church. I mentioned to some of the people, that I had seen Lorenzana; they were eager to hear of his health, and assured me that if he were to return, the whole city to a man, would come out to meet him and welcome him.

The chief boast of Toledo is its cathedral, which is a large and handsome Gothic structure; it is, however, very inferior to many of our English churches. Being built by Ferdinand the Catholic, it may be considered as one of the last efforts of the Gothic taste in Spain: externally, it is irregular, and mixed in its architecture; the interior is principally striking from its breadth: it is divided into five aisles; it shews none of the rich features of the contemporary florid style in England, except in the enclosure of the altar, which is adorned with tracery.

Near the cathedral is a large building covered with red plaister, which is the palace of the archbishop: it runs into all sorts of shapes and directions, making a number of small courts, and affording chambers for one hundred and fifty persons, who constitute the prelate's retinue; it has no enclo-

sure or garden, and is one of the dullest and dirtiest buildings I have ever seen.

We passed through two dreary streets to the Gothic church of San Juan de los Reyes: the exterior is covered with the chains, fetters, manacles, &c. which were found upon the christian captives when Alphonso IV. took the city.

Nothing can surpass the gloomy dulness of Toledo: in other towns the chanting of the convents is drowned by the noise and bustle of the streets; but here it struck me greatly, the desolate silence is only broken by the deep voices of the friars, who are singing masses continually, and in every part. The university is a remarkably neat and convenient building.

The manufactory of swords is carried on about half a league from the town. The palace of Charles V. is in a fine situation, the scite of the ancient Moorish Alcazar, but the architecture does not offer any thing to admire.

Before I left Toledo I paid another visit to the cathedral, while vespers were chanted with music, on the eve of St. Peter's day. The choir is in the centre of the building, and the stalls are finely carved by Porregiano, the pupil of Buonarotti. The singing and music was in the same lively opera style, which I had occasion to remark at Monserrat and other places: and indeed, the ca-

nons seem to consider it in the light of an entertainment, as they frequently talked to each other, and even smiled occasionally. The organ of this cathedral is very fine, and has a strength of tone which is peculiar to the organs of this country. The relics and treasures of this cathedral have been often described; and it must be remarked, though the Spanish churches must yield to those of Italy in marble statues, paintings, and taste, yet they infinitely surpass them, especially at present, in gold and silver, precious stones, and valuable ornaments.

The province of Toledo being situated nearly in the centre of Spain, may be taken as a general specimen, for the purpose of giving an idea of the rural economy of the other agricultural provinces in the interior. It it but moderately fertile, and partly occupied by mountains; nevertheless it produces so much corn as to be able to export a certain quantity, which principally goes to supply the consumption of Madrid. The following are some calculations on this subject.

	Annual Produce.	Average Price.	Value in Reals de Vellon
	Fanegas.	Reals.	
Wheat,* - - - -	1,800,000	44	79,200,000
Barley, - - - -	1,472,000	19	24,968,000
Rye, - - - - -	380,000	26	7,280,000
Oats, - - - - -	146,000	14	2,044,000

* The *fanega* and *arroba* are Spanish measures, which I have no opportunity of exactly reducing to our common

Surplus of Corn.

186,000 fanegas of wheat, worth	8,184,000 reals.
70,000 ——— of barley, - -	1,330,000
Oats to the value of about - - -	20,000
Total value of corn exported, -	9,534,000 reals.

	Annual Produce. Fanegas.	Average Price. Reals.	Total Value. Reals de Vellon.
Grey pease, of which one-fifth is exported,	40,000	80	3,200,000
Vetches, - - - - -	39,000	25	975,000
Black vetches, - -	3,000	24	72,000
Jujias, or square pease,	2,000	30	60,000
Titos, a kind of yellow pease, - - - - -	8,000	28	224,000
Guisantes, another kind not much known, -	2,500	34	85,000
Rapeseed, - - - - -	600	25	15,000
Linseed, - - - - -	700	39	27,300
Saffron, - - - - -	1,000 lb.	80	80,000
Aniseed, - - - - -	500 fanegas	56	28,000
Cummin, - - - - -	400	48	19,200
Total value, - - - - - - - -			4,791,500

English measures of capacity. The silver *real* is equal to about 51-2*d.* sterling, and the real *de Vellon* (or of copper) to about half that sum. Unfortunately, the tables from which I copy these statements, do not accurately distinguish which is meant in each case, or I would have expressed the whole in sterling money; but any of my commercial readers who may be inclined to make the calculations themselves, will probably be sufficient judges to determine in every instance.

Vegetables appear not to be much cultivated, especially for a province so near to Madrid.

	Fanegas.	Reals.	Reals de Vellon.
Lentils, ...	7,000	28	196,000
Beans, ...	10,500	29	304,500
French beans, . .	2,000	35	70,000
Potatoes, ...	70,000 arrobas	3	210,000
Other vegetables, especially excellent asparagus, . . .	50,000	4	200,000
Total value, ...			970,500

Neither is fruit in greater abundance, as may be seen by the following statement :

Cherries, . . .	17,500 arrobas,	35,000 reals.
Apricots, . .	8,000	64,000
Plumbs, . . .	40,000	200,000
Figs, ...	2,000	36,000
Chesnuts, . . .	20,000 fanegas,	140,000
Walnuts, . . .	2,000	50,000
Total value, ...		525,000 reals.

The produce of the olive is on the other hand considerable ; that tree thrives much better in this province than in the environs of Madrid, which, from the too elevated situation, is subject to more intense frosts.

	Arrobas.	Reals.	Reals.
Olive oil, . .	170,000	at 40	6,800,000
Of which are exported, .	20,000		800,000
Olives, . . .	25,000 fanegas,	at 20	500,000

The vineyards are equally important; they sometimes yield very pleasant wines, but a much greater quantity of those of la Mancha, is consumed at Madrid.

	Arrobas.	Reals.	Reals.
Grapes, ...	2,000	at 5	60,000
Wine, ...	1,700,000	at 7	11,900,000
Vinegar, . . .	29,000	at 6	174,000
Spirits, . . .	21,000	at 16	336,000
Total value of the produce of the vine,			12,470,000

About 200,000 arrobas of wine are exported, and fetch the sum of 1,400,000 reals.

Among the primary materials used in manufactures, are distinguished the following:

		Reals.
Flax,	5000 arrobas, of the value of	330,000
Hemp,	20,000 arrobas, ...	740,000
Rushes, called *esparto*,	12,000 bundles,	12,000
Silk,	25,000 arrobas, ...	1,550,000

In 1787 there were uncultivated spots, on which upwards of 80,000 mulberry trees might have been planted.

	Reals.
Soda and barilla, 270,000 arrobas, of the value of	1,500,000
Madder and woad, a small quantity.	
Sumach, 26,000 arrobas, ...	104,000

Cattle constitute an essential branch of the exportations of this province, as appears from the annexed account:

		Reals.	Reals.
Wool,	16,000 arrobas,	at 60	960,000
Rams,	3,000 head,	at 42	126,000
Lambs	10,000	at 22	440,000
Swine,	10,200	at 61	622,200
Mules,	600	at 900	540,000
Foals,	150	at 160	24,000
Young asses,	400	at 120	48,000
Calves,	6,000	at 112	672,000
	Total value of these articles,		3,432,200

The produce of cheese, about 10,000 arrobas, amount to 28,000 reals, but it does not appear that any is exported. The sheep yield 80,000 arrobas of wool, of the value of 4,800,000 reals. The bees supply 4000 arrobas of honey, valued 128,000 reals, and 400 arrobas of wax, worth 72,000 reals.

We have very few accurate observations on the degrees of heat and cold, to which the thermometer rises in the different latitudes of Spain, as well as on the other circumstances relative to the climate of the country.—

The following particulars, however, are given on good authority.

Heavy rains are rare at Toledo, but droughts are frequent. Rain comes with the west and south-west winds, but is seldom brought by the east or south. The north wind is always dry, though very humid in Asturias and Biscay. The rains are but of short continuance; they begin about the middle of October and last five or six days, after which the air is serene till the middle of December, when a fortnight's rain succeeds. The frost sets in with the year: the snow seldom lies above twenty-four hours at Toledo; but at Madrid, where it is more abundant, it sometimes remains several days. M. Guilleman has observed Reaumur's thermometer as low as five degrees at Toledo; at Madrid he has seen it fall to seven degrees; at Beurrit, near Palencia, in latitude 42°, he has seen it at 9 and a third degrees; and at Pampluna in latitude 43o, and at the foot of the Pyrenees, he has observed it at 9 7-9. At Toledo the almond tree blossoms in the middle of February, and the apricot the beginning of March. The hot season commences with the month of July; not a cloud is then to be seen, and thunder storms, though common in May and June, are then very rare. At sun-rise the thermometer stands at from thirteen to nineteen degrees. According to Don Juan, the greatest heat at Madrid is 26

degrees, and the average temperature of the month of July does not exceed 20°. From these observations it may be concluded, that since the heat of Toledo seems to be equal, notwithstanding the difference of latitudes, to that of Algiers, the climate of Cadiz and Malaga may perhaps be as hot as that of Surrinam and Pondicherry.

July 14.

We arrived at Lisbon this evening, after a fatiguing journey from Madrid. We rode post-horses, which is the most expeditious mode of travelling in Spain. The distance from Madrid to Lisbon is ninety-eight leagues, viz. sixty-six of Spain, and thirty-two of Portugal. Multiplying these, the one by four and the other by five, gives the number of English miles, four hundred and twenty-five; of which fifteen are water passage, from Aldea Gallega to Lisbon. The country through which we passed, may be generally described as follows:—Castile, before we left it, shewed some few spots superior to its usual bleak and burnt appearance; and the mountains of Guadaloupe make a fine object in the prospect: Spanish Estremadura is a rocky surface, covered almost entirely with a forest of cork trees, and exhibiting in several instances, picturesque views.—Portugal, from Elvas to Cana, is a

rich and pleasing country; from Cana to Lisbon, wild, with shrubs and pines; a sandy soil: excepting Merida, there is no interesting town on the road, four hundred and twenty-four miles. The aqueducts of the ancient Ementa Augusta, are fallen into the most beautiful decay, and interspersed with the trees which grow about the river, they form one of the prettiest prospects I have ever seen. We found the inns small and indifferent during the whole journey; though in Portugal they are worse than in Spain. The road is not well kept: it is sometimes stony and narrow, and at others a wide sandy track; the Portuguese road is frequently paved. Of the Spanish post-horses, we generally found two out of the four, very good: these are small, and canter well. In Portugal we seldom found more than one good out of the five. In Spain, the charge each league is eleven reals and a half the horse, and the postillion expects a pesetta for the same distance. In Portugal, for two horses they charge a dollar or eight testoons a league, and the postillion is paid the same as in Spain. The road from Madrid to Cadiz, alone furnishes post-horses for carriages. The royal post-office at Madrid keeps twenty-eight riding horses; and in every post-house in Spain six are provided, of which two are always ready. In Portu-

gal each post-house has thirteen horses, all ready.

July 15.

The stink of the streets of Lisbon is a strong antidote to curiosity; but in fact, after a tour in Italy and Spain, there is very little in this city to afford gratification, and excite interest. The situation is certainly fine but the town wants eminent buildings, and the banks of the Tagus are too tame and barren. Belem is an interesting object, especially to the antiquary, as it exhibits a species of Gothic architecture which is unknown to the rest of Europe. The monastery was founded by Emanuel I. on the spot where Vasco de Gama received the benediction of the patriarch, when he sailed on his voyage of discovery. A specimen of a similar sort of Arabesque Gothic, may be seen in the mausoleum erected by the same King at Batalka.

The environs of Lisbon have been much celebrated; and it must be allowed, that Cintra is in every respect worthy the warm tints of description which have been lavished on it. It is a most beautiful and interesting spot: a mountain covered half way up with gardens and villas, and above these, rising into rude and picturesque appearances. The view from Cintra, however, is very bare and disagreeable.

July 20.

With little regret I embarked on board the packet for England, without seeing more of Portugal; which, from want of splendor in the privileged orders, and want of character among the people, must at this time (1803) be reckoned one of the most uninteresting and unpleasant countries in Europe.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST

OF THE

MOORISH AND SPANISH SOVEREIGNS WHO HAVE REIGNED IN SPAIN.

Califs of the East.

A. C.

705. Valid I. eleventh calif of the Omiades.
716. Suleiman.
718. Omar II.
721. Yezid II.
723. Haccham.
742. Valid II.
743. Yezid III.
744. Ibrachim.
744. Merzau II. the last calif of the house of Omiah.
752. Aboul-Abbas-Saffah, first calif of the house of Abbas.

Governors or Viceroys of Spain.

714. Moussa, conqueror of Spain.
717. Abdelazis, son of Moussa.
718. Alahor.
721. Elzemagh.
723. Ambeze-ben-Sehim.
725. Asre-ben-Abdoullah.
727. Jahiah-ben-Selene.
728. Osman-Abinesa.
728. Hazifa-ben-Elahous.
729. Hicchem-ben-Hadi.
731. Mehemet-ben-Abdoullah.
731. Abdalrahman-ben-Abdoullah, killed at the battle of Tours.
734. Abdoulmelek-ben-Koutn.

A. C.
735. Akbe-ben-el-Hadjadi.
742. Aboulatar-Hassan.
742. Tevabé.
746. Joseph el Fahri, the last viceroy.

Califs of the West.

755. Abdarahman I. prince of the house of Ommiah.
788. Haccham I.
796. Abdelazis-el-Hakkam I.
822. Abdarahman II. and Mouzaffer.
852. Mahommed I. el Emir.
886. Almouzir.
889. Abdoullah.
912. Abdarahman III.
961. Abdoul-Abbas-el-Hakkam II.
976. Haccham II.
1005. Mohammed-el-Mahadi, the usurper.
1007. Suleiman.

Sultans of Cordova.

1011. Haccham II. restored to the throne.
1014. Suleiman, restored.
1016. Ali-ben-Hamoud.
1017. Abdarahman IV.
1018. Casim.
1021. Jahiah.
1022. Haccham III.
1024. Mohammed-el-Mustek-fi-Billah.
1025. Abdarahman V.
1025. Jahiah-ben-Ali.
1026. Haccham IV.
1027. Jalmar-ben-Mohammed, the last calif of Cordova.

Principal Kingdoms erected on the Ruins of the Western Califat.

Toledo.

A. C.
1027. Adafer-Almamon I.
1053. Almamon II. the benefactor of Alphonso VI.
1078. Haccham, the eldest son of Almamon II
1079. Jahiah brother of the preceding.
1086. Taking of Toledo by Alphonso VI. king of Castile. Jahiah removes his residence to Valencia.
End of the kingdom of Toledo.

Saragossa.

1014. Almundir, governor, assumes the royal dignity.
1023. Almudafar-Benhoud I.
1025. Suleiman-Benhoud II.
1073. Almutadar-Billah.
1096. Almotazem, the last king.
1118. Taking of Saragossa by Alphonso I. surnamed the Warrior, king of Arragon.
End of the kingdom of Saragossa.

Valencia.

1026. Muceit.
Various usurpers.
1085. Jahiah, last king of Toledo.
1093. Aben-Jaf.
1094. The Cid takes Valencia, and rules there with sovereign power until his death.
1102. The Almoravides, kings of Morocco, retake Valencia after the death of the Cid.
Various governors or usurpers.
1224. Abenzieth.
1230. Zein, the last king.

A. C.
1238. Taking of Valencia by James I. king of Arragon.
End of the kingdom of Valencia.

Seville.

1023. Idris.
1028. Aboulcazem Benabad I.
1041. Abi Omar Benabad II.
1068. Mohammed Benabad III. the last king.
1097. Benabad III. surrenders himself a prisoner to Joseph Almoravides.
Various governors or usurpers.
1236. Seville becomes a republic.
1248. Taking of Seville by St. Ferdinand, king of Castile.

Kings of Grenada.

1236. Mahomet I. Abousaid-Alhamar founder of the kingdom of Grenada, and chief of the branch of the Alhamars.
1273. Mahomet II. al-Fakih.
Emir-al-Mumenim.
1302. Mahomet III. el-Hama, or the Blind.
1313. Ismael I. Farady, chief of the royal branch of the Faradys descendants of the first Alhamir.
1322. Mahomet V.
1343. Joseph I.
1354. Mahomet VI. the old.
1360. Mahomet VII. the red.
Alhamar VI.
1362. Mahomet the old, restored.
1379. Mahomet VIII. Abouhajad, or Guadix.
1392. Joseph II.
1396. Mahomet IX. Balba.
1408. Joseph III.

A. C.
1423. Mahomet X. Abenazar, or the Left-handed.
1427. Mahomet XI. el-Zugair, or the Little.
1429. Mahomet X. restored.
1432. Joseph IV. Alhamar.
1432. Mehomet X. seated a third time on the throne.
1445. Mahomet XII. Osman.
1453. Ismael II.
1465. Mulci Hassem.
1485. Abou-Abdoullah, or Boabdil, the last king.
1492. Taking of Grenada by Ferdinand and Isabella, king and queen of Castile and Arragon. End of the kingdom of Grenada.

Kings of Castile.

1230. St. Ferdinand, the third of that name.
1252. Alphonso X. the Wise.
1284. Sancho IV. the Brave.
1295. Ferdinand IV.
1311. Alphonso XI. the Avenger.
1350. Peter the Cruel.
1369. Henry II. Transtamare.
1379. John I.
1390. Henry III.
1406. John II.
1454. Henry IV. the Impotent.
1474. Isabella and Ferdinand V. the conquerors of Grenada.
1492. Total expulsion of the Moors.
Discovery of America.
1504. Joanna, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, marries Philip I. of the house of Austria.

House of Austria.

1504. Philip I.
1516. Charles I.; or as emperor of Germany, Charles V.

A. C.
1556. Philip II.
1592. Philip III.
1621. Philip IV. whose daughter, Maria Theresa, married Louis XIV. of France in 1660.
1665. Charles II. who died without issue.

House of Bourbon.

1700. Philip V. grandson of Louis XIV.
1724. Louis, who died the same year.
1746. Ferdinand VI.
1759. Charles III. his brother.
1788. Charles IV. born in 1748.

Present Royal Family of Spain.

Charles IV. born Nov. 12, 1748; king of Spain and of the Indies, Dec. 14, 1788; married Sept. 4, 1765, to Louisa Maria Theresa of Parma, queen of Spain and of the Indies, born Dec. 9, 1751.

Issue of this marriage:

Ferdinand Maria Francis de Paule, &c. prince of Asturias, born Oct. 14, 1784; married Oct. 6, 1801, to Maria Antoinette Theresa, daughter of Ferdinand IV. king of the Two Sicilies, born Dec. 14, 1784. Died in 1806.

Charles Maria Isidore, infant of Spain, born March 29, 1788.

Francis de Paula Anthony Maria, infant of Spain, born March 10, 1794.

Charlotte Joachima, infanta of Spain, born April 25, 1775; married Jan. 9, 1790, to the prince-regent of Portugal.

Maria Louisa Josephina, born July 6, 1782; married August 5, 1795, to Louis, hereditary prince of Parma, afterwards created king of Etruria, and who died in 1803.

Maria Isabella, infanta of Spain, born July 5, 1789.

Brothers of the King.

Ferdinand IV. King of the Two Sicilies.

Antonio Pascal Francis John Nepomuceno Amiello Raymond Sylvester, born Dec. 31, 1755; married his niece, the infanta Maria Amelia, who died July 27, 1798.

Son of the Infant Gabriel and Maria Anna Victoria, Daughter of the Queen of Portugal.

Peter Charles, infant, born June 17, 1786.

DESCRIPTION OF CADIZ HARBOUR.

I HAVE, in another chapter, detailed with some minuteness the peculiar nature of the commerce carried on from the port of Cadiz; I shall therefore now speak only of this city in a general view. It is situated in the province of Andalusia, on an island, separated from the main land by a small arm of the sea, but united to it by a fortified bridge. The entrance of the bay is about 500 fathoms wide, and is guarded by two forts. The streets of the city are narrow, dirty, ill-paved, and much infested with rats in the night. The houses are very high, with flat roofs; and most of them have a sort of turrets, affording an extensive view of the sea. Among the public establishments here, the most remarkable are the naval academy, the superb naval hospital, and the observatory. The cathedral has now been 50 years in constructing, but the roof is not half finished. The outskirts of the city are agreeable and rural. This is the port from which the flotilla sails for South America, and to which it returns; and perhaps there is not a more commercial city in Europe, nor one more abounding in money.

Cadiz was called by the Phœnicians, *Gadir;* a name signifying *a hedge*, or *place surrounded with hedges;* the Romans called it Gades, and the Arabians Kader. The ancient Gadir was originally founded by the Tyrians, and afterwards came under the dominion of the Carthaginians, from whom it was taken by the Romans. The Moors were expelled from this city in the year 1262. The pretended pillars of Hercules, which are still shewn in ruins, were two round stone towers, which seem to have formed part of a windmill.

The island on which Cadiz stands, was formerly thirty leagues in circumference, but the continual encroachments of the sea have now reduced its extent to ten leagues. In the year 1731, the tide having on one occasion fallen remarkably low, there were discovered near San Petro (a small isle near Cadiz) the remains of the ancient town, and the temple of Hercules, built here by the Phœnicians. A large bronze statue of Apollo was recovered, but was *piously* broken to pieces by the populace: some small statues of the same substance, however, were saved, and are still preserved in a cabinet of antiquities at Port St. Mary.

The city of Cadiz was taken and burnt by the English, in the year 1596. Our countrymen besieged it also, but without effect, in 1702; and during the present war, had

at one time begun a bombardment of it; but this was discontinued on the dreadful visitation of the plague appearing among its inhabitants. Its population is computed at 66,000 souls.

THE END.

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